The most pleasant History

3.

of TOM

ALINCOLNE,

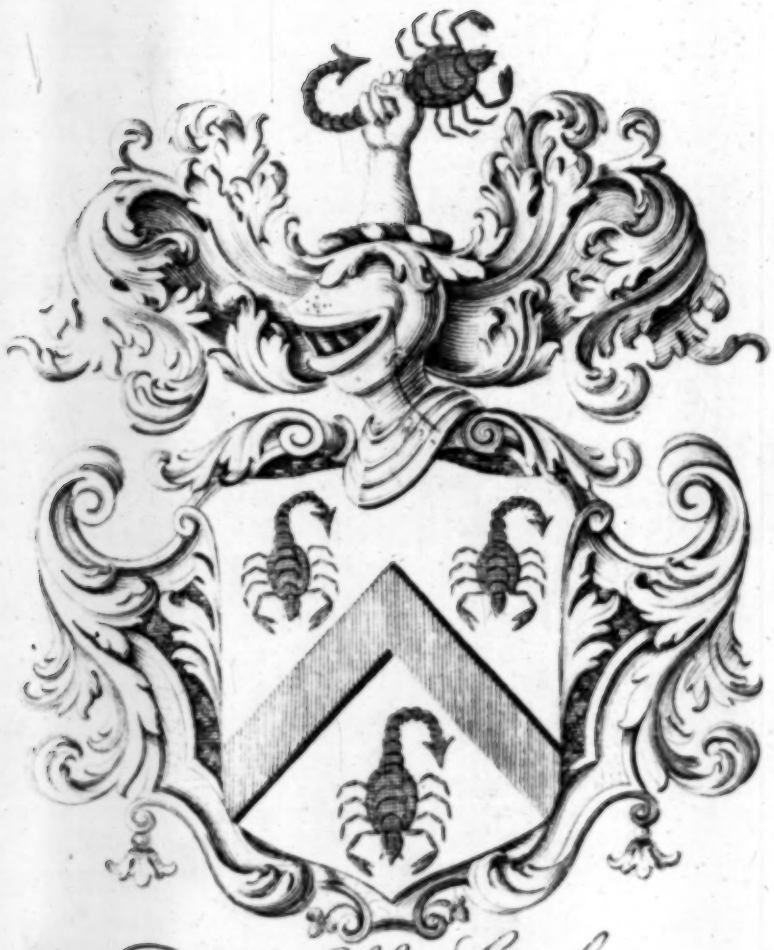
That renowned Souldier, the RED-ROSE Knight, who for his Valour and Chivalry, was surnamed *The Boast of England.*

Shewing his Honourable Victories in Forraigne Countries, with his strange Fortunes in the *Fayrie* Land: and how he married the faire *Anglitora*, Daughter to *Prester Iohn*, that renowned Monarke of the World.

Together with the Lives aud Deathes of his two famous Sonnes, the *Blacke Knight*, and the *Fayrie Knight*, with divers other memorable accidents, full of delight.

The sixth Impression.

LONDON,
Printed by *Aug: Mathewes* and are to bee sold by *Robert Byrde*, and *Francis Coules*. 1631.



Will.m Cole
Coll: Regal: Cantab: A.M.

TO THE RIGHT VVOR-SHIPFVLL, SIMON WORTEDG

of *Okenberrie* in the County of *Huntington*, Esquire: health, happines, and prosperitie.

THE generall report and consideration (right Worshipfull) of your exceeding courtesie, and the great friendship which my parents haue heretofore found at the hands of your renowned Father, doe imbolden me to present vnto your Worship these my vnpolisht Labours; which if you shall vouchsafe to cast a fauourable glaunce vpon, and therin find any part or parcell pleasing to your vertuous minde, I shall esteeme my trauell most highly honoured. The History (I present) you shall finde delightfull, the matter not offensiue to any: only my skil in penning it very simply, and my presumption great, in presenting so rude a peece of worke to so wise a Patron; which I hope your Worship will the more beare with, and accompt the rather to be pardonable, in that the fault proceedeth from a good meaning.

Your worships deuoted, and
poore Country-man.

R. I.

 Richard Johnson.

The Pleaſant Hiſtorie of TOM A LINCOLNE,

the RED-ROSE Knight: for his valour and Chiualrie, ſurnamed *the Boaſt of England.*

CHAPTER. 1.

How King Arthur *loued faire* Angellica *the Earle of* Londons *Daughter: and likewiſe of the birth of* Tom a Lincolne.

WHEN as King ARTHVR wore the Emperiall Diadem of England, and by his chiualrie had purchaſed many famous Victories, to the great renowne of this mayden Land, hee ordeined the order of the round Table, and ſelected many worthy Knights to attend his Maieſtie: of whoſe gliſtering renowne many ancient Hiſtories doe record, and witneſſe to all inſuing ages.

This worthy Prince, vpon a time intending to viſit the city of London, with ſome few number of his Knights, came and feaſted with Androgius, being at that time Earle of London; whoſe houſe (as then) was not only repleniſhed with moſt delicate fare, but grac'ſt with a number of beautifull Ladyes: who gaue ſuch a pleaſing entertainement to King Arthur and his Knights, that they were rauiſhed with pleaſure, and

quite forgot the sound of martiall Drummes, that had wont to summon them foorth to the fields of Honour: Amongst these glorious troupes of London Ladyes, Angellica the Earles daughter had the chiefest prayse for beauty and courtly behaviour: for euen as the siluer-shining Mone in a Winters frosty night, surpasseth the brightest of the twinckling Stars: so farre Angellicaes sweete feature exceeded the rest of the Ladyes: whereby King Arthur was so intangled in the snares of loue, that by no meanes he could withdraw his affections from her diuine excellence. He that before delighted to tread a weary march after Bellonas Drummes, was now constrayned to trace Cupids Measures in Ladyes Chambers: and could as well straine the strings of a Louers Lute, as sound a Souldiers alarme in the field: her beauty like the Adamant, drew his steeled heart to lodge in the closure of her breast: and no company delighted so much the loue-sicke King, as the presence of faire Angellica. So vpon a time as hee stood looking out of his Chamber window, hee espied the Mistris of his soule sitting in a Garden vnder a Bower of Vines, prettily picking the ripest Grapes with her delicate hands, and toke such pleasant pains in that maydenlike exercise, that the well coloured blood in her face began to ware warme, and her chæckes to obtaine such an excellent beauty, that they sæmed like two purple Roses intermixt with Hawthorne-buds: whereby King Arthur grew inamored vpon her, and stood for a time senceless through the extreame passion he toke in beholding her beauty: But at last, recouering his senses, he spake to himselfe in this manner.

Oh most diuine Angellica, Natures sole wonder, thou excellent ornament of Beauty, thy louely Face painted with a crimson die, thy rosicall Chæckes surpassing Snow in whitenesse, thy decent Necke like purest Iuory, hath like a Fowlers net intangled my yælding heart: whereby it is for euermore imprisoned in thy breast. Oh that the golden Tresses of thy dainty Haire which shine like the Rubyes, glittering in the Sunne, had neuer twinckled before my rauisht eyes, then had my heart inioyed his wonted liberty, and my Fancie bëen frë from Louers vaine imaginations. Thus, and in like manner, complayned the King vnto himselfe, seeking by all meanes

possible

possible to exclude Loues fire from his breast. But the more her strone to abandon it, the more it increased: and seeing no policie might preuaile, but that this burning torment must of force bee quenched with her celestiall loue hee descended from his Chamber, and went bouldly into the Garden; where taking Angelica by the hand as shee sate vpon a bed of Violets, which as then grew vnder the Arbour, in this manner began to court her.

Faire of all faires, (sayd the King) deuine and beautious Paragon faire Flower of London, know that since my abode in thy Fathers house, thy beauty hath so conquered my affections, and so bereaued me of my liberty, that vnlesse thou vouchsafe to cole my ardent desires with a willing graunt of thy loue, I am like to dye a languishing death, and this Countrey England of force must lose him, that hath filde her boundes with many triumphant Victories: therefore sweet Angellica, if thy hard heart be so obdurate, that the teares of my true loue may nothing mollifie, yet take pitty on thy Countrey, that through thy cruelty, she lose not her wanton glory, and be made vnhappy, by the losse of her Soueraigne: thou seest (my diuine Angellica) how I, that haue made Princes stoope, and Kings to humble when I haue frowned, doe now submissively yeelo my high honour to thy feete, either to be made happy by thy loue, or vnhappy in thy hate, that in time to come, Children may either blesse, or curse thee: Of these two, consider which thou wilt performe either with cruelty to kill mee or with clemencie to preserue mee.

This vnexpected request of the King, so amazed Angellica, that her Cheeks were stayned with blushing shame, and like a bashfull Maiden (for a time) stood silent not knowing in what manner to answere him, considering hee was King of England, and she but Daughter to an Earle: But at last, when feare and shame had a while strone together in her heart, shee replyed in this sort,

Most mighty King (said shee) if your entertainement in my Fathers house hath beene honourable, seeke not the foule dishonour of his Daughter, nor proffer to blemish the bud of her virginitie with the least thought of your vnchast desires: the

losse of which sweet Iemme, is a torment to my soule more worse then death. Consider with your selfe (most worthy Prince) the blacke scandall that it may bring vnto your name and honour, hauing a Queene a most vertuous and loyall Princesse. Thinke vpon the staine of your marriage bed, the wrongs of your wedded phœre, and lasting infamie of your cirne glorie, for this I vow (by Dianaes bright maiesty) before I will yeld the conquest of my virginitie to the spoyle of such vnchast desires, I will suffer more torments, then mans heart can imagine: therefore (most mighty Soueraigne) cease your vntrue-send suite, for I will not lose that matchlesse Iewell, for all the treasure the large Ocean containes: And in speaking these words shee departed thence, and left the loue-sicke King in the Arbour, complaining to the emptie ayre: where after hee had numbred many determinations together, this hee purposed; Neuer to cease his suite, till he had gained what his soule so much desired: for continually at the break of day, when Titans beautie began to shine, and Auroraes blush to appeare, would hee alwayes send to her Chamber window the sweetest Musicke that could bee deuised; thinking thereby to obtaine her Loue. Many times would hee solicite her with rich gifts, and large promises, beeting rather an Empresse then the Daughter of an Earle, profering such kindnes, that if she had a heart of Iron, yet could shee not chuse but relent and requite his curtesies: for what is it that time will not accomplish, hauing the hand of a King set thereunto.

Twelue wearydayes King Arthur spent in woing of Angellica, before hee could obtaine his hearts happinesse, and his soules content: at the end of which time, she was as pliant to his will, as is the tender twig to the hand of the Husbandman. But how their secret meaning required a pollicie to kepe their priuie loues both from King Arthurs Queene, and from old Androgius, Angellicas Father; and that their secret ioyes might long time continue without mistrust of any partie whatsoeuer, this deuice they contriued: that Angellica should desire liberty of her Father, to spend the remaine of her life in the seruice of Diana, like one that abandoned all earthly vanitie, honouring true chastity and religious life: So, with a

den ure

demure countenance, and a sober grace, shee went vnto her Father, and obtained such leaue at his hands, that he willingly condiscended that shee should liue as a professed Nunne, in a Monasterie that the King before time had builded in the Citie of Lincolne; and so furnishing her forth with such necessaries as her state required, he gaue her his blessing, and so committed her to Dianaes service.

But now Angellica being no sooner placed in the Monastery and chosen a Sister of that fellowship, but King Arthur many times visited her in so secret a manner, and so disguisedly, that no man suspected their pleasant mætings: but so long tasted they the ioyes of loue, that in the end the Nunne grew great bellied, and bore King Arthurs quittance sealed in her wombe, and at the end of forty weekes, shee was deliuered; where in presence of the Midwife, & one more whom the King largly recompenced for their secrecy, shee was made a happy Mother of a goodly sonne, whom King Arthur caused to be wrapped in a Mantle of græne Silke, tying a Purse of Gold about his necke, and so causing the Midwife to beare it into the Fields, and to lay it at a Shepheards gate nære adioyning to the Citie, in hope the old man should foster it as his own: by which means his Angelicaes dishonour might be kept secret from the world, and his owne disgrace from the murmuring reports of the vulgar people.

This his commandement was so spædily performed by the Midwife, that the very next morning she stole the young Infant from his Mothers kæping, and bore it secretly to the place appointed, there laying it downe vpon a turfe of græne grasse: it sæmed prettily to smile, turning his christall eyes vp towards the Elements, as though it forcknew his owne good Fortune. This being done, the Midwife withdrew her selfe some little distance from that place, and hid her selfe closely behind a well growne Oake, diligently marking what should betide the comfortlesse Infant: But long shee had not there remained, but there flocked such a number of little Birdes about the young harmelesse Babe, and ma[de] such a chirping melody, that it fell into a silent slumber, and slept as swætly as though it had bæn layde in a Bed of softest Silke.

By this time, the golden Sunne began to glister on the

Mountaine top, and his sister Luna to withdraw her watrish countenance: at which time, the pleasant Shepheards began to tune their Morning notes, and to repayre vnto their foulded Shéepe, according to their wonted manner: Amongst which crue of lusty Swaines, old Antonio approached forth of his Gate with a chearefull countenance, whose Beard was as white as polished Siluer, or like to Snow lying vpon the Northerne Mountaines: this bonny Shepheard no sooner espied Angelicaes swéet Babe lying vpon the grœne Hillocke, but immediatly hée tooke it vp; and viewing circumspectly euery parcell of the rich Vestments wherein it was wrapped, at last found out the Purse of Gold which the King had tyed vnto the Childs necke, whereat the Shepheard so exceedingly reioyced, that for the time, he stoode as a man rauished with pleasure, and was not able to remoue from the place where he stood: but yet at the last, thinking with himselfe that Heauen had sent him that good fortune, not onely giuing him Riches, but withall a Sonne, to be a comfort to him in his latter yeares; so bearing it in to his old Wife, and withall the Purse of Gold, and the rich Mantle, with the other things: who at the sight thereof, was as highly pleased as her Husband, when he found it first: so being both agréed to foster and bring it vp as their own, considering that Nature neuer gaue them in all their life any child, incontinently they caused it to be christened, and called by the name of Tom A Lincolne; (after the Towne where it was found) a name most fitting for it, in that they knew not whom were his true Parents.

But now speake wee againe of the Midwife, that after shée had beheld how kindly old Antonio receiued the young Infant, shée returned backe vnto Angelicaes Chamber, whom shee found bitterly lamenting the losse of her tender Babe, thinking that some Fayry Nimph had stolne it away: but such was the kind comfort which the smooth tonged Midwife gaue her in that extremity, whereby her sorrow seemed the lesse, and her mistrustfull feare exchanged into smiling hope: yet neither would the King nor the Midwife at any time whatsoeuer, make knowne vnto her what was become of her little Sonne, but driuing her off with delayes and fond excuses, lest hauing intelligence of

his

his aboad, ſhe ſhould (through kinde loue, and naturall affection) goe viſite him, and ſo diſcouer their Loues practiſes.

Thus liued the moſt fayre Angelica many dayes in great griefe, wiſhing his returne, and deſiring Heauen that the Deſtinies might be ſo fauourable, that once againe before the fatall Siſters had finiſhed her life, ſhe might behold her Infants face: for whoſe preſence her very ſoule thirſted for.

Here will we leaue the ſolitary Lady comfortleſſe and without company (except it were the King, that ſometimes viſited her by ſtealth) and report what happened to Tom a Lincolne in the Shepheards houſe.

Chap. II.

Of the manner of *Tom a Lincolnes* bringing vp, and how he firſt came to be called the *Red roſe Knight:* with other things that hapned to him.

GReat was the wealth that old Antonio gathered together, by meanes of the Treaſure hee found about the Infants attire, whereby hee became the richeſt in all that Country, and purchaſt ſuch Lands and Liuings, that his ſuppoſed Sonne (for wealth) was deemed a fit match for a Knights Daughter: Yet for all this his bringing vp was but meane, and in a homely ſort; (for after he had paſſed ten yeares of his age hee was ſet to keepe Antonios Sheepe, and to follow Husbandry, whereby he grew ſtrong and hardy, and continually gaue himſelfe to painefull endeauours, imagining and deuiſing haughty and great enterpriſes: yet notwithſtanding was of honeſt and vertuous conditions, well featured, valiant, actiue, quick and nimble, ſharpe witted, and of a ripe iudgement: hee was of a valiant and inuincible courage, ſo that from his Cradle and infancie, it ſeemed he was vowed to Mars, and martiall exploits. And in his life and manners is deciphered the Image of true Nobilitie: for though hee obſcurely liued in a Countrey Cottage, yet had he a ſuperious mind, aiming at ſtate and maie-

ſtie, bearing in his breaſt the princely thoughts of his Father. For on a time keeping Cattell in the Field amongſt other yong men of his age and condition, he was choſen (in ſport by them) for their Lord or Knight, and they to attend on him like dutifull Seruants: and although this their election was but in play, yet he whoſe ſpirits were rauiſhed with great and high matters, firſt, procured them to ſweare to him loyalty in all things; and to obey him as a King, where, or when it ſhould pleaſe him in any matter to command them: to which they all moſt willingly condeſcended. Thus after they had ſolemnly taken their oathes, he perſwaded them to leaue that baſe and ſeruile kinde of life, ſeeking to ſerue in Warre, and to follow him, being the Generall: the which through perſwaſion they did, and ſo leauing their Cattell to their Fathers and Maſters, they aſſembled all together, to the full number of a hundred at the leaſt: vnto whom he ſeuerally gaue certaine Red Roſes, to be worne for colours in their Hattes, and commanded them, that euer after hee ſhould be called the Red-roſe Knight. So in this manner departed he with his followers vnto Barnſedale Heath, where they pitched vp Tents, and liued long time vpon the robberies and ſpoyles of paſſengers, in ſo much that the whole Country were greatly moleſted by them.

This diſordered life ſo highly diſpleaſed the Parents of theſe vnruly Outlawes, that many of them died with griefe: but eſpecially of all other, old Antonio tooke it in ill part, conſidering how dearely hee loued him, and how tenderly hee had brought him vp from his infancy: therfore he purpoſed to practiſe a meane to call him from that vnciuill kinde of life, if it might poſſible be brought to paſſe: ſo in his old dayes vndertaking this taſking, hee trauelled towards Barnſedale Heath: into which being no ſooner entred, but ſome of the ruder ſort of theſe Outlawes ceaſed vpon the old man, and without any further violence, brought him before their Lord and Captain: who at the firſt ſight knew him to be his Father (as he thought) and therefore vſed him moſt kindly, giuing him the beſt entertainement that hee could deuiſe: where, after they had ſome ſmall time conferred together, the good old man brake out into theſe ſpeeches.

Oh then degenerate (quoth he) from natures kind: Is this thy duty to thy fathers age, thus disobediently to liue, wounding thy naturall Countrey with vnlawfull spoyles? Is this the comfort of mine age: is this thy loue vnto thy Parents, whose tender care hath bin euer to aduance thy estate: Canst thou behold these milke-white hayres of mine all to rent and torne, which I haue violently martyred in thy absence? Canst thou indure to see my dim Eyes almost sightlesse through age, to drop downe Teares at thy disobedient feete? Oh wherefore hast thou infringed the Lawes of Nature, thus cruelly to kill thy fathers heart with griefe, and to end his dayes by thy vitious life? Returne, returne deare Child, banish from thy breast these base actions, that I may say, I haue a vertuous Sonne: and be not like the viperous brood, that workes the vntimely death of their Parents. And speaking these words, griefe so exceeded the bounds of Reason, that hee stood silent, and beginning againe to speake, teares trickled from his eyes in such abundance, that they stayed the passage of his speech: the which being perceiued by the Red-rose Knight, he humbly fell vpon his knees, and in this sort spake vnto good Antonio.

Most deare and reuerent Father, if my offence doe seeme odious in your eyes, that I deserue no forgiuenesse, then here behold now your poore inglorious Sonne, laying his breast open, ready prepared to receiue Deaths remorselesse stroke from your aged hands, as a due punishment for this my disobedient crime: but to be reclaimed from this honorable kind of life (I count it honourable, because it taketh of manhood), first shall the Sun bring day from out the Westerne Heauens, & the siluer Moone lodge her brightnesse in the Easterne waues, and all things else against both kind and nature turne their wonted course.

Well then (quoth Antonio) if thy resolution bee such, that neither my bitter teares, nor my faire intreaties may preuaile to withdraw thy vaine folly, then know (thou most ingratious impe) that thou art no Sonne of mine, but sprung from the bowels of some vntamed Tyger, or wild Lioness, else wouldst thou humbly submit thy selfe to my reuerent persuasions; from whence thou camest I know not, but sure thy breast harbours the tyranny of some monstrous Tyrant, from whose loynes

thou

thou art naturally descended. Thou art no fruite of my body for I found thee (in thy infancy) lying in the Fields, cast out as a prey for rauening Fowles, ready to bee deuowred by hunger-starued Dogges: but such was my pitty towards thee, that I toke thee vp and euer since haue fostered thee as mine owne Child: but now, such is thy vnbridled folly, that my kind curtesie is requited with extreame ingratitude; which sinne aboue all others, the immortall powers of Heauen doe condemne, and the very Diuels themselues dos hate: therefore like a Serpent, henceforth will I spit at thee, and neuer cease to make incessant prayers to the iustfull Heauens, to reuenge this thy monstrous disobedience.

These words being ended, hee gaue such an extreame sigh, that his very heart brake with griefe, and hee immediatly dyed in the presence of the Red-rose Knight, For whose death, hee made more sorrowfull lamentation, then Niobe did for her seuen Sonnes. But in recompence of old Antonioes kind loue, that preserued his infancie from the fury of rauenous Fowles, he intombed him most stately in the Citie of Lincolne, whose body he sent thither by certaine Passengers whom hee had taken, and withall a thousand pound in treasures, to be bestowed vpon a great Bell to bee rung at his Funerall; which Bell hee caused to bee called Tom a Lincolne after his owne name, where to this day it remaineth in the same Citie: These Passengers being as then rich Merchants of London hauing receiued the dead body of old Antonio, and withall the treasure, went with all speed vnto Lincolne, and performed euery thing as the Red-rose Knight had appointed.

The death of this good old man not onely caused a generall sorrow through the whole Citie, but stroke such an extreame griefe to old Antonioes wife, that shee within few dayes yeelded her life to the remorceleese stroke of the frowning destinies, and was buried in the same graue where her Husband was intombed: Whose deaths we will now leaue to be mourned by their dearest friends, and likewise for breuities sake, passe ouer many stratagems which were accomplished by the Red-rose Knight & his followers vpon Barnsdale Heath, and returne to King Arthur & his Knights, flourishing in the English Court.

CHAP.

Chap. III.

Of the first Conquest of *Portingale* by the *Red-rose* Knight, and how hee was the first that euer triumphed in the Citie of *London*.

THe report of Tom a Lincolnes practises grew so generall amongst the vulgar sort of people, that at last it came to King Arthurs eares, who imagined in his Princely minde, that he was sprung of his bloud, and that hee carried lofty thoughts of honour planted in his brest, though shrowded vnder a Countrey life: therefore, through kinde nature, hee purposed to haue him resident in Court with him, that hee might daily see his liuely sparkes of honour shew their resplendant brightnesse, yet in such obscurity, that hee should not know the smallest motion of his Parentage; therefore hee called together three of his approued Knights, namely Lancelot du Lake, Sir Tristram and Sir Triamore, and gaue them in charge, if it were possible, to fetch the Red-rose Knight vnto his Court, of whose aduenturous exployts hée hath heard so many times reported: and withall he gaue them generall Pardon, sealed with his priuie Seale, for him and all his lawlesse followers.

This Commission beeing receiued by the three worthie Knights, they with all speede armed themselues in rich Corselets, and strong habiliments of Warre, and so rode towards Bransedale Heath where being no sooner come, and deliuered their message from the King, but the Red-rose Knight gaue them an honourable welcome, and for three dayes most royally feasted them vnder large Canuasse Tents; wherein they slept as securely, as they had béene in King Arthurs Court, or in a strong Castle of warre.

After this, Tom a Lincolne selected out a hundred of his resolute Followers, such as he best liked of, and came with Sir Lancelot, and the rest to the English Court; where King Arthur

not onely gaue him a friendly entertainment, but also installed him one of his Knights of the Round-table: and withall proclaimed a solemne Turniament, that should be holden in the honour of this new made Knight: to which Turniament, assembled from other Countries, many Princes, Barons, & Knights of high honour, which behaued themselues most nobly, and won great commendations of euery beholder: but especially the Red-rose Knight, who for that day, stood as chiefe Champion against all commers. In that Turniament, or first dayes deede of his Knighthood, where onely by his valour and prowesse hee ouerthrew three Kings, and thirty other Knights, all famouzed for Chiualry: whereby he obtained such grace in the English Court, that he had by the King a paire of golden Spurres put vpon his feet; and generally of the whole assembly, he was accounted one of the brauest Knights that then liued in the world.

But now marke, how frowning Fortune ended their Triumphes with vnlucky Newes: for the same day before the Knights had vnbuckled their Armours, there arriued a Messenger, who certified King Arthur, how his Ambassadour was vniustly done to death in the Portingale Court, (which was an Act contrary both to the Faith of Princes, and the Law of Armes:) For whose death King Arthur grew so enraged, that he sware by the Honour of his bright Renowne, and by the golden Spurre of true Knighthood, the Portingales should repent that inhumane violence, with the death of many thousand guiltlesse soules; and that Babes vnborne, should haue iust cause to curse the first contriuer of that vniust murther: therefore with all spæde hee mustered vp a mighty Armie of Souldiers, and (because hee was continually molested with home-bred Mutinies, and treacherous rebellions, the which himselfe in person of force must pacifie) appointed the Red-rose Knight as chiefe Generall ouer the Armie mustered for Portingale. In which Seruice, hee accomplished so many famous Exployts, that hee was for euer after surnamed, The Boast of England. For no sooner had hee the whole Campe in charge, and aboard their Shippes, but hee proued the perfect Patterne of an exquisite Souldier: such a one, as all martiall Captaines may learne to imitate: for hee so circumspectly ordered his Captaines, that

in

in his Campe was neuer knowne any brawle or mutenie. He was very courteous and liberall, doing honour to all men according to their deserts. He so painfully and with such care instructed his Souldiers, that at an instant alwayes (if it were needfull) euery man by the sound of a Drumme or a Trumpet, was found in his Charge and Quarter. And (to be briefe) his Campe resembled one of the greatest Cities in the world, for all kind of officers were there found in order: and also a great number of Merchants to furnish it with all manner of necessaryes. Nor in [illegible] case permitted any robberies, priuy fighting, force, or violence: but with seuerity punished those that were therein found guiltie. His desire was, that his Souldiers should glory in nothing so much, as in Martiall prowesse, Vertue, and Wisedome. He euermore gaue them their pay without fraud or deceit. He honoured, he prayed, he imbrac'd and kist them, and withall kept them in aiue and subiection: by which meanes his fame and honour grew so renowned, that his Army dayly encreased more and more. For when he first arriued vpon the Confines of Portingale, his Campe grew to bee as great as euer was Cæsars, when he conquered the Western World, and in matchlesse prowesse nothing inferiour vnto his. So fortunate were his proceedings, that he made a great part of the Prouinces of Portingale desolate, not being intercepted by any, but poyling euery Towne and Citie as hee went, vntill such time as the Portingale King had gathered together a marueilous number of Souldiers, both olde, and of much experience, by reason of the continuall Warres that they had with the Spanish Nation adioyning nere vnto them: But when this Portingale King (like an expert Souldier) seeing that no way he might resist the English Army, nor expell them his Countrey, vnlesse he gaue them present Battaile, therefore trusting in his approued Manhood, and the prowesse of his Souldiers, he set his Army in a readinesse, and so marched forward to meet the Red-rose Knight, and his warlike followers, which at that time had pitched his Campe in a large Champion Plaine, adioyning nere vnto the Citie of Lisshborne, whereas both these Armies met: and setting them in order (as it became good Captaines) there they began (in the breake of

the day) the moſt cruell and terribleſt Battle that euer was heard of, or fought in that age, conſidering the number of both parties, their experience and pollicy, with the valiant courage and prowesse of their Captaines.

In great danger continued this fight, till the Sun beganne to ſet, with marueilous ſlaughter on both ſides; yet remayned the victory doubtfull, declining neither to the Portingales, nor yet to the English: but at laſt (though long) the Portingales began to faint and flie; more indeed oppreſt with the multitude then for any feare they receiued in the Battell: for the moſt part of them with honour dyed manfully in the Field, ſome taken priſoners, and the reſt fled for their better ſafety: but now the Portingale King perceiuing his Souldiers begin to flye, with courage hee ſought to withdraw them from flight, reſiſted in perſon valiantly the furious rage of the enemy: but in that enterprize he gained ſuch and ſo many knockes, that at laſt hee was vnhorſt, and for want of reskew, was forſt to yéeld himſelfe as priſoner: whereat the whole armie of the Portingales were diſcomforted, and the victory fell to the Engliſhmen: the which being obtayned, the Red-roſe Knight with his Armie entred into the Citie of Liſhborne; where the common Souldiers were inriched with wealthy ſpoyles, and the Kings Pallace ranſacked by the Red-roſe Knight: where hee take ſuch priſoners as him beſt liked, and the reſt (like an honorable ſouldier) he ſet at liberty, commaunding that no violence ſhould be proffered any way:

After this, ſetting his Army in a readineſſe, he marched towards England, where after ſome few dayes trauell, hee arriued with all his Hoaſt, in the Weſterne parts of Deuonſhire, and marching towards London, where againſt his comming, the Citizens with the Inhabitants of other villages nére adioyning, were that day ſéene in their moſt ſumptuous and rich attire, euery one of them endeauoring to place himſelfe in ſome Gallery or Windowe, that the better and with more eaſe they might behold the triumphant returne of the Red-roſe Knight. All the Churches in London were on euery ſide ſet open, hanged round about with moſt coſtly foniture: the ſtréetes were alſo moſt gloriouſly beſet with gréene-Boughes, and ſtrowed

with

with Perfumes of no ſmall value: and for the infinite multitude of people that were ſeene in the Citie, there were appointed a hundred Whiflers moſt richly attyred to keepe the ſtreets plaine and open, whereby the triumphs might haue the eaſier paſſage: and for that the diuerſity of the ſhewes were ſo many, that they of neceſſitie were conſtrained to part them into three ſeuerall dayes.

The firſt day hardly ſufficed in good order to bring in the Banners, Standards, and Enſignes of the Conqueror, the golden Images, and Tables of price, which were all brought in on Carts very curiouſly painted and trimmed.

On the ſecond day, came in the Armour of the Conquered King, as alſo of all the other Portingale Lords: and as they were rich, bright, and glittering, ſo were they with moſt cunning ordered and couched in waggons. After theſe entred three thouſand men, in order, bearing nothing but Money openly to be ſeene, and that in huge Platters and Veſſels of Siluer; of which were three hundred and fiftie in number, and foure of our men allotted to euery veſſell: the other brought in moſt artificiall Tapeſtry works, beautified with gold and ſiluer. And thus was the ſecond dayes Triumph ended, in moſt pompous ſolemnitie.

Upon the third day, euen at the riſing of the Sunne, with the firſt Band, entred (as a ioyfull ſound of Conqueſt) an infinite number of Flutes, Drummes, and Trumpets, with other like Martiall and Warlike Inſtruments, ſounding not after a moſt pleaſant and ſweet manner, but in moſt terrible ſort, as it was poſſible to be done, euen in ſuch order as they doe, when they preſently ioyne Battaile. And after them, came a hundred and twentie Kine all white, hauing their Hornes curiouſly gilded with Gold, their bodies couered with Vayles, (which they accompted moſt ſacred and holy) bearing alſo Garlands of Flowers vpon their Heads, driuen by certaine young Gentlemen, no leſſe well fauoured then gorgeouſly attyred. After theſe, followed the Coach of the conquered King of Portingale, with his owne Armour layd thereon openly to bee ſeene of all men: his Crowne and royall Scepter was layd in ſeemely order vpon his Armour. After his Coach,

came Prisoners on foot, with his owne naturall Children, being little Infants: and after them followed a great Troup of his Seruants and Officers, as Maisters of his Houshould, Secretaries, Vshers, Controlers, Chamberlaines, with other Gentlemen of his Court, all in a most sorowfull manner, seeing themselues brought into such extremitie and seruitude, that they moued to compassion all such as beheld them. Of the Kings children, there were two Boyes, and one Girle, of age so young and tender, that they had small vnderstanding of their misfortune and misery.

In this triumph followed the Father his owne Children, (after the vsage of his Countrey) clad in black mourning garments, sorrowing likewise for his hard misfortune. Then followed sundry of his appointed Friends: which, beholding in that plight their vnhappy Prince, brake out into teares and sighes so bitterly, that their enemies themselues grieued at their mishaps.

After these, followed one which carryed certaine precious Stones, that had been presented to the Red-rose Knight, from some ancient Cities in Portingale, who immediatly followed in person triumphantly in his Ivory Chariot, apparelled in vestures of purple Tissue, hauing a Lawrell bough in his hand, and a Crowne of the same vpon his Head. After him, followed his owne Souldiers, both Foot-men, and Horse-men, all marching in most decent order, armed with rich Furniture, holding also each of them a Lawrell bough in his hand, their Ensignes and Banners Souldier-like displayed, sounding Martiall Melody in honour of their triumphant Captain: with many other like presidents, most royall and magnificent.

Thus in this gallant order marched they to the Kings Chappell, where in the presence of the King and his Lords, (which came to honour and grace their Triumphs) they gaue thanks to God for their successfull victory: were after solemne Seruice was ended, they departed to King Arthurs Court, where euery one, as well Strangers as others, were most royally feasted.

The Portingale King seeing his kind entertainement in the English Court, where he was vsed more like a Friend, then an

Enemy,

Enemie, had small care to returne home, but frolik'd many a day amongst the English Lords: whose loues vnto strangers be euermore most honourable. But so great were the courtesies that the Noble King Arthur bestowed vpon the Portingales, who for their proffered disgraces, requited them liberally with honour: and not onely sent them home ransomlesse, but promised to lend them ayde and succour from England, if occasion required: So bearing them company to the Sea side, hee most friendly committed them to the mercy of the winds and waues, which were so fauourable, that in short time they arriued safe in their owne Country; where many a day after they remembred the honourable kindnesse of the English-men, and caused the Chronicles of Portingale to record the renowne of King Arthur, and his Knights of the Round Table.

Chap. IIII.

How the *Red-rose Knight* trauelled from the King of *Englands* Court, and how he arriued in the *Fayerie-land*, where he was entertained by a Mayden Queene, and what happened to him in the same Country.

NOw, after the Portingales were thus conquered, and sent home with great honour, the English King and his Lordes, rested themselues many a day in the Bowers of Peace, leauing their Armours rusting, and their pampered Steedes standing in their Stables, forgetting their vsuall manner of wrathfull warre: which idle ease greatly discontented the magnanimious Red-rose Knight, who thought it a staine to his passed glory, and a scandall to his Princely mind to entertaine such base thoughts: and considering with himselfe how ignorant hee was of his true Parents, and from whence hee was descended, hee could not imagine: therefore hee purposed to begin a new enterprise, and to trauaile vp and downe the World, till hee had either found

found his Father and Mother, or else yelded his life to Natures course in that pretended Journey: so going to the King, (full little thinking that he was sprung from so Noble a stock) craving at his Graces hand, to graunt him such liberty, for to try his Knight-hood in forraine Countries, whereas yet did neuer Englishman make his aduenture; and so eternize his name to all posterity, rather then to spend his life in such home-bred practises.

To this his honourable request, the King (though loath to forgoe his company, yet becau'e it belonged to Knightly Attempts) hee gaue him leaue, and withall, furnished him a Shippe at his owne proper cost and charges, giuing free Licence to all Knights whatsoeuer, to beare him company: amongst which number, Sir Launcelot du Lake was the chiefest that proferred himselfe to that Voyage, who protested such loue to the Red-rose Knight, that they plighted their Faiths like sworne Brothers, and to liue and die together in all extreamities.

So these two English Knights, with the number of a hundred more, all resolute Gentlemen, take leaue of the King, and with all spæde went a Ship-boord: wherein being no sooner entred, but the Pylot hoysed Sayle and di'anchored, and so committed their liues and fortunes to the pleasure of Neptunes mercie: vpon who'e watry Kingdome they had not many dayes sayled, but Æolus brazen gates burst open, and the Windes so violently troubled the swelling waues, that euery minute they were in danger, to end their liues in the bottome of ths Seas.

Three moneths the winde and the waters strone together for supremacie: during which time, they sawe no land, but were driuen vp and downe, to what place the euer-changing Destenies listed: so at last they sayled beyond the Sunne, directed only by the light of the Starres, not knowing which way to trauell towards land, but in such extremity for want of Victuall, that they were forced to land at a certaine Iland in the Westerne parts of the world, inhabited onely by women: where being no sooner on land, and giuing God thanks for deliuering them from that mortall perill, but the Red-rose Knight cast vp

his

his eyes towards the higher parts of the Countrey, and espied more then two thousand women comming forth at a Citie gate, all most richly armed with Breast-plates of Siluer, marching in trim aray, like an Army of well approued Souldiers: the which number comming nére to the Sea side, they sent two of their Damsels, as Messengers to the English Knights, willing them, as they loued their liues, presently to retire againe back to the Seas, for that was no Countrey for their abode. But when the Red-rose Knight of England had vnderstoode the bold message of the two Damsels, he was sore abashed (considering the number of armed women he saw before him, and the great dangers they had suffered before on the Sea for want of victuals) that he knew not in what manner he were best to answere them: but hauing a good courage, hee at last spake to the two Damsels in this sort.

Right Noble Ladies, I haue well vnderstood your spéeches: therefore I desire you for to shew such fauour vnto wandering Trauailers, as to tell vs in what Country Fortune hath brought vs to: and for what cause we are commanded by you to returne to the Sea?

Surely Sir Knight (answered one of the Damsels) this Countrey whereon you are ariued, it is not very bigge, but yet most fertile and commodious; and is called by the name of the Fayrie-Land: And now to shew you the cause why you are commaunded to returne, this it is. Not many yeares agoe, there raigned in this Countrey a King which had to name Larmos, for wisedome and prowesse not his equall was found in any of these parts of the world. This King had such continuall warre against the bordering Flanders, that vpon a time he was constrained to muster for the same warre all the men both young & old which were found in his Kingdome, whereby the whole Countrey was left destitute of men, to the great discontentment of the Ladies and Damsels that here inhabited: whereupon they finding themselues so highly wronged, liuing without the company of men, they generally assembled themselues together, with the Daughter of King Larmos, which is called Cælia, no lesse in Beautie, then in Vertue and Wisedome: These Ladyes and Damosels beeing gathered toge-

ther, with a generall consent, dispatched certaine Messengers to the King, and to their Husbands, willing them to returne into their Countrey, and not to leaue their wiues and children in such extremity, without the comfort and company of man. Vpon which, the King answered, that hee had besieged his Enemies in their Townes of Warre; and before one man should returne home till he came with Conquest, his Countrey should bee lost and made desolate, and the Women giuen ouer to the spoyle of his Enemies: Which answere, when the Ladies had receiued, they tooke it in such euill part, that they conspired against their King, and Husbands, and put to death all the men children that were in the Countrey; and after determined, when their Husbands, Fathers, and Friends returned from the Warre, that they should the first night of their coming, bee slaine sleeping in their Beds, and that neuer after they should suffer man to enter into their Countrey. After this conclusion, they crowned Cælia the Kings Daughter for their Quæne: And so afterward, when the King and his Armie returned from his Warres, this bloudy murther was practised, and not a man left aliue, but onely the King reserued, whom Cælia would in no wise against nature murther: but yet notwithstanding, shee deliuered him into the hands of her chiefest Ladies, which put him into a Boat alone, and so sent him to the Sea to seeke his fortune. Therefore most noble Knights, this is the cause, why you may not enter into our Countrey: which if you doe, and not presently withdraw your selues vnto the Sea, the Ladies will suddenly giue you a meruailous Battell.

Now by the Euer-liuing Gods (which Englishmen adore, (said the Noble Red-rose Knight) such extremitie haue wee suffered at Sea, that wee are like to perish and dye with hunger, vnlesse we finde some succour at your hands: and before we will end our liues with famine, we will enter Battell with those Ladies, and so dye with Honour in the Field: yet this kindnesse doe we humbly desire at your hands, to returne vnto your Quæne, and certifie her of our poore estate and necessity, and that we altogether instantly desire her, that if there be any sparke of Vertue, or Nobility harboured in her breast, that shee

will

will haue pitie vpon vs, and suffer vs not to end our liues by such an vnhappy kind of death.

With this request the two Damsels returned to the Queen and reccunted from word to word the humble suit of the Red-rose Knight, and what extremitie they were in: Which when the Quéne vnderstood, and that they were Knights of England, the fame of which countrey shée had so often heard reportes, shée demaunded, what manner of people they were, and of what condition? Surely Madam (answered one of the two Damsels) I neuer in all my life saw more goodly men, nor better spoken: and it is to bée supposed, they bée the choyce of all humane people, and with their courteous demeanors, are able to draive the merciless and sauage Nation to affect them.

The Quéne hearing the Damsels so highly to commend the English Knights, thinking also vpon their request, began (in minde) to haue pitie of their misaduentures, and so instantly sent for them, and gaue them frée libertie to make their abode in her Countrey: which incontinently when the English Knights heard, how they should receiue a kinde welcome, and a friendly entertainement, grew so exceeding ioyfull, as though Heauen had sent them present comfort: so coming before the Quéene and her Ladyes, they saluted each other most courteously, and with great reuerence. But when the vertuous Quéene beheld this noble company before her, in all humilitie, shée deliuered to a hundred of her Ladies, the hundred English Knights, and reserued the Princely Red-rose Knight vnto her selfe: and so were they brought to the Quéenes Pallace, where euery Lady feasted her Knight in most gallant sort, and to their hearts content. But now when the Quéne had the Red-rose Knight in her Chamber, and had beheld the exceeding beautie of the noble Prince, shée tooke him by the hand, and led him into one of her Chambers, where she shewed him her Riches and Treasure: and after sayd vnto him in this manner.

Most noble and valiant Englishman, these Riches bée all onely at thy Commandement, and also my body, which here I offer vp as a gift and Present to thy diuine excellencie: and

furthermore, there is nothing of value, which I am Mistris of, but shall be at thy disposing, to the intent that my loue may be acceptable to thy gracious eyes. But when the Red-rose Knight perceiued to what intent she spake these words, in this manner answered her, saying.

Most deare Princesse, and faire Quéene of this Maiden countrey, I giue you right humble thankes for these your courtesies, and by no meanes possible may I deserue this high honour you haue grac'd me with.

Oh great Knight (replyed then the Quéene) the smallest thought of your honourable minde, is sufficient to recompence the vttermost of my deserts: yet let me request this one thing at your noble hands, that neuer asked the like fauour of any one before, for she that neuer knew the least motion of loue, is now pricked with a hundred torments: and vnlesse you quench the ardent affection wherewith my heart is fired, with the pleasant hopes of your comfortable smiles, I am like to die desperat, and then the world will accuse you of cruelty, in murdering a constant Lady: but if it shall please you to grant me loue, and so espouse me according to Himens holy Rites, heere shall you rule sole King, and be the Lord of all this Countrey.

My right deare Lady (answered then the Red-rose Knight) you haue done such pleasure to mée, and to my distressed followers, in preseruing vs from famine, as I shal neuer requite it, though I should spend all the rest of my life in your Seruice. And know (most excellent Princesse) that there is no aduenture so dangerous, yet at your commandement would I practise to accomplish, yet for to tye my selfe in Wedlockes bonds, there is no woman in the world shall procure mee: for till I haue finished an Aduenture which in my heart I haue vowed, I will not linke my affection to any Lady in the world. But thinke not (Madam) that I refuse your loue through disdaine; for I sweare by the dignity King Arthur grac'd mée with, I should think my selfe most fortunate, if I had so faire and noble a Lady, as your diuine selfe.

Most worthy Knight (then answered the Quéene) I imagine, that the Gods haue sent you into this Countrey for two causes principally: The first is, that you and your followers

should

should be preserued from death by my meanes: The second is, that you should inhabit in this Countrey least it should in short time be left as a desert wilderneſſe: for it is inhabited onely by Women without a King, and haue no other Gouernour but me, which am their chiefe Princeſſe: And for so much as I haue succoured you, so succour you this desolate Citie, that it may be repeopled with your seed: and in so doing, you shall accomplish a vertuous deed, and winne to your names an eternall memory to all ensuing ages.

I confeſſe (quoth the Red-rose Knight,) that you and your Ladies haue succoured mee and my followers in our great neceſſitie: and in recompenſe whereof, wee will imploy all our indeauours to the repeopling againe of this Countrey: But in regard of the secret vow my heart hath made, I will not yeeld my selfe to your desires; for if I should infringe my oath, mine Honour were greatly impaired: And before I would commit that dishonourable fact, I would suffer the greateſt torment that mans heart can imagine.

Incontinently, when the loue-sicke Queene heard this answere of the English Knight, and perceiued that he was firme in his purpose, shee tooke leaue of him, and departed for that time. the Red-rose Knight likewise withdrew himselfe into his Chamber, pondring in his minde a thousand imaginations. But shee for her part was so troubled in mind, and so wounded with the Darts of blinde Cupid, that when the milkie darknes of night had couered the earth, shee layd her downe vpon her bed, where betwixt Shame and her Heart, began a terrible Battell. Her Heart was incouraged, that shee should goe and lie with him: but shame began to blush, and withstood that perswasion; by which meanes the battell was great, and indured a long time: but at last the Heart was conqueror, and shame banquished and put to flight, in such sort, that the faire Queene arose from her bed, and went and layd her downe by her beloued Knight, where hee slept: and being in the bed, shee began fearefully to tremble, for shame still followed her vnlawfull practises: where after her quiuering heart began a little to be qualified, with her trembling hand she awaked him, and after spake in this manner.

My most deare and affectionat friend, though like a careleſſe wretch I come vnto thée apparelled with Shame, yet let my true Loue colour this my infamous preſumption: for your Princely perſon, and Kingly demeanours, like Adamants haue drawne my ſteéled Heart to commit this ſhamefull acte; yet let not my feruent Affection be requited with Diſdaine: and although you will not conſent to be my wedded Lord and Husband, yet let me bée thy Loue and ſecret Friend; that a poore diſtreſſed Quéene may thinke her ſelfe happy in an Engliſhmans loue.

When the noble Knight heard the faire Cælias voyce, and felt her by his ſide all naked, hee was ſo ſore abaſhed, that hée wiſt not what to doe: but yet at laſt hauing the nature and courage of a man, hée turned to her, vſing many amorous ſpéeches, imbracing and kiſſing each other in ſuch manner, that faire Cælia was conceiued with Child, and ware great of a right faire Sonne: of whom ſhe was in proceſſe of time ſafely deliuered; as you ſhall heare diſcourſed of large in the following Hiſtory.

But to be ſhort, during the ſpace of foure Monethes, the Fayery Ladyes lay with the Engliſh Knights, and many of them were conceiued with their ſéede in ſuch ſort, that the Countrey was afterward repeopled with male Children, and what happened amongſt them in the meane ſeaſon, I will paſſe ouer for this time: for the dayes and nights (that haue no reſt) paſſe on their wonted courſe: in which time their Shippe was repleniſhed with all neceſſaries, and the Red-roſe Knight ſummoned together Sir Launcelot and the reſt: and being aſſembled, he ſayd vnto them.

My good Friends and Countreymen, you know, that long time we haue ſoiorned in this Countrey, ſpending our dayes in idle paſtimes, to the reproach of our former glories: now my intent is, within theſe thrée dayes to depart this Countrey, therefore let euery man make himſelfe in readines: for there is no greater diſhonour to aduenturous Knights, then to ſpend their dayes in Ladyes boſomes.

When ſir Lancelot and the other Engliſh Gentlemen heard the forward diſpoſition of the Red-roſe Knight, they were all

erce-

exceéding ioyfull, and anſwered him; that with great willingneſſe they would all be ready at the time appointed.

But now, when the Fayerie Ladies perceiued the preparations that the Engliſh Knights made for their departure, they grew exceéding ſorrowfull, and complained one to another in moſt grieuous manner: but amongſt the reſt, the Quæne was moſt diſpleaſed, who with a ſorrowfull and ſad heart came vnto the Red-roſe Knight, and in this manner complayned to him.

Alas, alas, my deare Lord, haue yée that tyrannous heart, to withdraw your ſelfe from me, and to forſake me before you ſée the fruit of your Noble perſon, which is nouriſhed with my bloud. Deare Knight, behold with pitie my wombe, the chamber and manſion of your bloud; Oh let that be a meanes to ſtay you, that my Child (as yet vnborne) be not fatherleſſe by your departure. And in ſpeaking theſe words, ſhée began to wæpe and ſigh bitterly, and after to whiſper ſecretly to her ſelfe in this order.

Oh you immortall heauens, how may mine eyes behold the departure of my ioy! for being gone, all comfort in the world will forſake me, and all conſolation flie from me: and contrariwiſe, all ſorrow will purſue mee, and all misfortune come againſt me. Oh what a ſorrow will it be to my ſoule, to ſée thée ſayling on the dangerous Seas, where euery minute, perils doe ariſe ready to whelme thée in the bottomleſſe Ocean! and being once exempted from my ſight, my heart for euermore lie in the bed of tribulation, vnder the couerture of mortall diſtreſſe, and betwéene the ſhéetes of eternall bewaylings. Yet if there be no remedy, but that thou wilt néedes depart, ſweare vnto me, that if euer thou doeſt accompliſh thy pretended voyage, (what it is I know not) that thou wilt returne againe to this Country, to tell mée of thy happy fortunes, and that mine eyes may once more behold thy louely countenance, which is as delectable to my ſoule, as the Ioyes of Paradiſe.

When the Noble Engliſh Knight vnderſtoode that the Quæne condeſcended to his departure, vpon condition of his returne, to which he ſolemnly proteſted, if the Gods gaue him life and good fortune, to performe her requeſt: whereby the

Fayrie

Fayrie Quéene was somewhat recomforted: And hauing great hope in the returne of her deare Loue, shée ceased her lamentations. And now (to abridge the Story) the time came that the valiant English-men should goe a Ship-bord: vpon which day, the Red-rose Knight and his followers, toke leaue of the noble Quéene and her Ladies, thanking them for their kinde entertainements, and so went to the Port of the Sea, where they entred their Ships, and so departed from the Fayrie Land. After this, when Cælia had borne her Babe in her wombe full forty wéekes, she was deliuered of a faire Sonne, who came afterward to be called the Fayrie Knight: which for this time wée will not touch, but referre it to the second part of this History.

Chap. V.

What happened to the Englisſh Knights, after their departure from the Fayrie Land.

With a prosperous Winde sayled these English Knights, many a League from the Fayerie Land, to their great content and hearts desire, where euery thing seemed to Prognosticate their happy Aduentures: so vpon a day when the Sunne shone cleare, and a gentle calme Winde caused the Seas to lye as smooth as Christall Ice, whereby their Ship lay floating on the Waues, not able to remoue: For whilest the Dolphins daunc'd vpon the siluer Streames, and the red gild-fishes leapt about the Shippe, the Red-rose Knight requested Sir Lancelot, to driue away the time with some Courtly Discourse, whereby they might not thinke their Voyage ouer long. Vnto which, the good Sir Lancelot most willingly agréed: And although hee was a Martiall Knight, delighting to heare the relentlesse sound of angry Drummes, which thunders threats from a Massaker, yet could hee like an Orator, as well discourse a Louers History: therefore requesting the Red-rose Knight, and the other

English

English Gentlemen, to ſit downe and liſten to the Tale that followeth.

The pleaſant Hiſtory which Sir *Lancelot du Lake*, told to the *Red-roſe Knight*, being a Ship-boord.

AT that time of the yeare, when the Birds had nipt away the tawny leaues, and Flora with her pleaſant Flowers, had enricht the earth, and encloathed with Trees, Yearbs, and Flowers, with Natures Tapiſtrie, when the golden Sunne with his glittering Beames did glad mens hearts, and euery Leafe as it were, did beare the forme of Loue, by Nature painted vpon it: This bleſſed time did cauſe the Grecian Emperour to proclaime a ſolemne Turnament to bee holden in his Court, which as then was replenished with many worthy and valiant Knights: but his deſire chiefely was, to beholde his Princely Sonne Valentine, to try his Valour in the Turnament.

Many were the Ladies that repayred thither, to beholde the worthy Triumphes of this young Prince: amongſt which number, came the beautifull Dulcippa, a Mayden which as then wayted vpon the Empreſſe, being Daughter to a Countrey Gentleman. This Dulcippa, like Apollos Flower, being the fayreſt Virgin in that company, had ſo firmely ſetled her loue vpon the Emperours ſonne, that it was impoſſible to expell it from her heart. Likewiſe, his affection was no leſſe in feruencie then hers: ſo that there was a iuſt equality in their Loues and liking, though a difference in their Birthes and Callings.

This Princely Valentine, (for ſo was the Emperours Sonne called) entred the Liſtes in coſtly Armour moſt richly wrought with Orient Pearles, his Creſt encompaſſed with Saphire Stones, and in his hand a ſturdie Launce. Thus mounted vpon a milke-white Steede, hee vaunted forth himſelfe to try his warlike force: and in prauncing vp and downe, hee many times (thorow his Beuer) ſtole a view of his fayre Dulciopas face: at which time, there kindled in his Breaſt two ſundry Lampes: the one was to winne the honour of the

day: the other, to obtaine the loue of his Mistresse. On the other side, Dulcippa did nothing but report the valiant acts of his prowesse and chiualrie, in such sort, that there was no other talke amongst the Ladies, but of Valentines honourable attempts.

No sooner was the Turnaments ended, and this loue begun, but Dulcippa departed to her lodging, where sighes did serue as bellowes to kindle Loues fire. Valentine in like manner being woounded to death, still roueth vp and downe to finde a salue for his stanchlesse thirst: so sekes Dulcippa to restore her former liberty: for, she being both beloued, and in loue, knew not the meane to comfort her selfe. Sometime she did exclaime against her wandring eyes, & wished they had bin blind when first they gazed vpon the beauty of Princely Valentine: Some times in visions she beheld his face chearefull, smiling vpon her countenance: and presently againe, she thought she saw his martiall hands bathed all in purple blood, scorning her loue and former courtesies. With that shee started from her dreaming passion, wringing her tender hands, till flouds of siluer dropping teares trickled downe her face: Her golden haire that had wont to be bound vp in threeds of gold, hung dangling now about her Ivory necke: the which in most outragious sort she rent and tore, till that her haire which before lookt like burnisht Gold, were died now in purple and Vermillion bloud. In this strange passion remained this distressed Lady, till the Golden Sunne had three times lodged him in the Westerne Seas, and the siluer Moone her shining face in the Pallace of the Christall Cloudes. At this time a heauy slumber possessed all her senses: for she, whose eyes before in three dayes, and as many nights, had not shut vp their Closets, was now lockt vp in silent sleepe, lest her heart euer burthened with griefe, by some vntimely manner should destroy it selfe.

But now returne wee to the worthy Valentine, who sought not to pine in passion, but to court it with the best, considering with himselfe, that a faint heart neuer gain'd faire Lady: therefore hee purposed boldly to discouer his loue to the faire Dulcippa, building vpon a fortunate successe, considering that she was but Daughter to a Gentleman, and he a Prince borne, so

attiring

attiring himselfe in costly Silkes, wearing in his Hatte, an Indian Pearle cut out of Ruby red. On eyther side a golden Arrow thrust through a bleeding Heart ; to declare his earnest affection. In this manner went he to his beloued Lady, whom he found in company of other Ladies waighting vpon the Empresse : who taking her by the hand, he led her aside into a Galery neere adioyning: where he began in this manner to expresse the passion of his loue.

Sacred Dulcippa, (quoth hee) in beauty brighter then glistering Cinthia, when with her beames shee beautifies the vales of Heauen. Thou art that Cinthia, that with thy brightnesse dost light my clowdy thoughtes, which haue many dayes been ouer cast with stormy showers of Loue: Shine with thy beames of mercie on my minde, and let thy light conduct me from the darke and obscure Labirinthe of Loue. If teares could speake, then should my tongue keepe silence: Therefore, let my sighes bee messengers of true loue. And though in words I am not able to deliuer the true meaning of my desires: yet let my cause beg pitty at your hands. Other wise your denialI drowne my soule in a bottomlesse Sea of sorrow: one of these two (most beautious Lady,) doe I desire: either to giue life with a chearefull smile, or death with a fatall frowne. Valentine hauing no sooner ended his loues oration, but she with a scarlet countenance, returned him this ioyfull answere.

Most Noble Prince, thy words within my heart, hath knit a Gordion knot, which no earthly Wight may vntie: for it is knitte with faithfull Loue, and Teares, distilling from a constant minde. My heart which neuer yet was subiect to any one, doe I freely yeld vp into thy bosome, where it for euermore shall rest, till the fatall sisters cut our liues asunder. And in speaking these words, they kissed each other as the first earnest of their loues. With that the Empresse came thorow the Gallerie, who espying their secret conference, presently nursed in her secret hate, which shee intended to practise against the guiltlesse Lady, thinking it a scandall to her Sonnes birth, to match in mariage with one of so base a parentage: Therefore purposing to crosse their loues with dis-

mall ſtratagems, and dyerie Tragedies, ſhee departed to her Chamber, where ſhe cloked her treacheries vp in ſilence, & pon-dyed in her heart how ſhe might end their loues, and finiſh Dul-cippas life. In this tragicall imagination remained ſhe all that night, hammering in her head a thouſand ſeueral pyactiſes. But no ſooner was the deadly earth comfyorted with the hote beames of Apollos fire, but this thirſting Empyeſſe aroſe from her carefull bed, penning her ſelfe cloſely within her Chamber, like one that made no conſcience foyr to kill: ſhee in all haſt ſent foy a Doctoy of Phiſicke, not to giue Phiſicke to reſtoye health, but poyſon foy vntimely death: who being no ſooner come into her pyeſence, but pyeſently ſhe lockt her Chamber doyre, and with an angry countenance, ſtaring him in the face, ſhee breathed this hoyroy into his harmeleſſe eares.

Doctoy, thou knoweſt how oft in ſecret matters I haue vſed thy helpe, wherein as yet I neuer ſaw thy faith falſified: but now amongſt the reſt, I am to require thy ayd in an earneſt buſineſſe, ſo ſecret, which if thou doſt but tell it to the whiſpering windes, it is ſufficient to ſpyead it thyough the whole woyld: whereby my pyactiſes may be diſcouered, and I be made a noted repyoach to all hearers.

Madame (quoth the Doctoy, whoſe heart harboured no thought of bloody dæds) what nædes all theſe circumſtances, where dutie doth command my true obedience? deſiſt not therfoyre gentle Empyeſſe, to make me pyiuy to your thoughts: foy little did he thinke her minde could harbour ſo vile a thought: but hauing coniured moſt ſtrongly his ſecreſie, ſhe ſpake to him as followeth.

Doctoy, the loue (nay rather raging luſt) which I haue ſpied of late betwixt my vnnaturall ſonne, and pyoud Dulcippa, may in ſhoyt time (as thou knoweſt) byring a ſudden alteration of our ſtate, conſidering that he being boyne a Pyince, and deſcended from a royall race, ſhould match in marriage with a baſe and ignoble Mayden, daughter but to a meane Gentleman: therefoyre, if I ſhould ſuffer this ſecret loue to goe foyward, and ſeeke not to pyeuent it, the Emperour might condemne mée of falſhood, and iudge me an agent in this vnlawfull loue; which to a voyd, I haue a pyactiſe in my head, and in thy hand it lyes

to

to procure thy Princes happinesse, and Countreys good. Dulcippas father (as thou knowest) dwels about three miles from my Pallace, vnto whose house I will this day send Dulcippe, about such businesse as I thinke best, where thou shalt bee appointed, and none but thou to conduct her thither: where in a thicke and bushy groue which standeth direcly in the midway, thou shalt giue her the cup of death, and so rid my heart from suspitious thoughts.

This bloody practise being pronounced by the Empresse, caused such a terrour to enter into the Doctors mind, that he trembled forth this sorrowfull complaint.

Oh you immortall powers of Heauen, you guider of my hapless fortunes, why haue you thus ordained mee to bee the bloody murderer of a chaste and vertuous Lady, and the true patterne of sobrietie: whose vntimelesse ouerthrow if I should but once conspire, Dianas Nymphs would turne their wonted natures, and staine their hands with my accursed blood: Therefore most glorious Empresse, cease your determination, for my heart will not suffer my hand to commit so foule a villany.

And wilt not thou doe it then, (replyed the Empresse with a mind fraught with rage and blood:) I doe protest (quoth shee) by Heauens bright Maiestie, except thou doest consent to accomplish my intent, thy head shall warrant this my secretie. Stand not on termes, my resolute attempt is cleane impatient of obiections.

The Doctor hearing her resolution, and that nothing but Dulcippas death might satisfie her wrath, hee consented to her request (and purposed cunningly to dissemble with the bloody Queene) who beleeued that hee would performe what shee so much desired: so departing out of her chamber, she went to the giltlesse Lady, sending her on this fatall message: who like to hapless Bellerophon, was ready to carry an embassage of her own death But in the meane time, the Doctor harbored in his breast a world of bitter woes, to thinke how vilely this vertuous Lady was betrayd: and considering in his minde, how that he was forced by constraint to performe this tragedy; therefore hee purposed not to giue her a cup of Poyson, but a sleeping

Drinke, to cast her into a traunce, which shee should as a cup of death receiue; as well to try her vertuous Constancie, as to rid himselfe from so haynous a crime.

But now returne wee to Dulcippa, who beeing sped of her Message, went with the Doctor, walking on the way, where all the talke which they had, was of the liberall praise of Prince Valentine; who remayned in Court, little mistrusting what had happened to his beloued Lady: and she likewise ignorant of the hurt that was pretended against her life: but being both alone together in the Wood, where nothing was heard but chirping Birds, which with their voyces seemed to mourne at the Ladyes misfortune, But now the Doctor breaking off their former talke, tooke occasion to speake as followeth.

Man of all other creatures (most vertuous Lady) is most miserable, for Nature hath ordayned to euery Bird a pleasant tune to bemoane their misshapps, the Nightingale doth complaine her Rape and lost Virginitie within the desart Groues: the Swanne doth likewise sing a dolefull heauie tune a while before shee dyes, as though Heauen had inspired her with some foreknowledge of things to come. Yea Madame, now must sing your Swan-like Song; for the pretty Birds (I see) doe drope their hanging heads and mourne, to thinke that you must die, Maruell not Madame; the angry Queene will haue it so. Accurst am I in being constrayned to bee the bloody instrument of so tyrannous a fact. Accurst am I that haue ordained that cuppe, which must by Poyson, stanche the thirst of the bloody Empresse: and most accursed am I, that cannot withstand the angry Fates, which haue appoynted mee to offer outrage vnto vertue. And in speaking these words, hee deliuered the Cup into the Ladyes hands: who like a Lambe that was led to the slaughter, vsed silence for her excuse. Many times lift shee vp her eyes toward the sacred Throne of Heauen, as though the Gods had sent downe vengeance vpon her giltlesse Soule, and at last breathed forth these sorrowfull lamentations.

Neuer (quoth shee) shall vertue stoope to Vice. Neuer shall Death affright my soule: nor neuer Poyson quench that lasting loue, which my true heart doth beare to Princely Valentine;

tine; whoſe Spirit (I hope) ſhall méete mée in the toyfull Fields of Elizium, to call thoſe Ghoſts, that dyed for Faithfull loue, to beare mee witneſſe of my Faith and Loyalty: and ſo taking the Cup, ſhée ſaid. Come, come, thou moſt bleſſed Cup, wherein is contained that happy Drinke, which giues reſt to troubled mindes. And thou moſt bleſſed Wood, beare witneſſe, that I mixe this banefull Drinke with Teares diſtilling from my bléeding heart. Theſe Lips of mine that had wont to kiſſe Prince Valentine, ſhall now moſt willingly kiſſe this Ground, that muſt receiue my Corſe. The author of my death, Ile bleſſe; for ſhee honours mee, in that I die for my ſwéet Valentines ſake. And now Doctor to thée (being the inſtrument of this my Death) I doe begueath all earthly happineſſe: and here withall, I drinke to Valentines good fortune: So drinking off the ſléeping Potion, ſhée was preſently caſt into a traunce; which ſhée poore Lady, ſuppoſed death. The Doctor greatly admiring at her vertuous minde, erected her body againſt an aged Oake, where he left her ſléeping, and with all ſpéede returned to the hatefull Quéene, and told her, that he had performed her Maieſties command: who gaue him many thanks, and promiſed to requite his ſecrecie with a large recompence.

But now ſpeake we againe of Prince Valentine, who had intelligence, how the onely comfort of his heart had ended her life by Poyſons violence: for which cauſe, he leaues the Court; and conuerted his rich Attire to ruthfull Roabes: his coſtly coloured Garments, to a homely ruſſet Coat; and ſo trauailing to the ſolitary woods, he vowed to ſpend the reſt of his dayes in a Shepheards life: His royall Scepter was turned into a ſimple Shéepehooke, and all his pleaſure was to kéepe his Shéepe from the téeth of the rauenous Wolues.

Three times had gliſtering Phœbe renewed her horned winges, and deckt the elements with her ſmiling countenance: Three moneths were paſt, three Moones had likewiſe runne their wonted compaſſe, before the Grecian Emperour miſt his Princely Sonne: whoſe want was no ſooner bruted through the Court, but hee ecchoed forth this horrour to himſelfe.

What

What cursed Planet thus indirectly rules my hapleſſe course? or what vncouth dryery Fate hath bereaued me of my Princely ſonne? Ioue ſend downe thy burning Thunderbolts, and ſtrike them dead that be procurers of his want: But, if (ſweet Venus) he be dead for loue, houer his Ghoſt before mine eyes, that hee may diſcouer the cauſe of his inflictions. But contrariwiſe, if his life be finiſhed by the fury of ſome murtherous mind, then let my exclamations pierce to the iuſtfull Maieſtie of Heauen, that neuer Sunne may ſhine vpon his hated head, which is the cauſe of my Valentines decay: Or, that the angry Furies may lend me their burning whips, inceſſantly to ſcourge their purple ſoules, till my Sonnes wrongs bee ſufficiently reuenged. Thus, or in ſuch a like frantick humour ranne hee vp and downe his Pallace, till Reaſon pacified his outragious thoughts, and by perſwaſion of his Lords, he was brought into his quiet bed. Meane ſpace, Diana (the Queene of Chaſtitie) with a Traine of beautifull Nimphes, by chance came through the Wood where Dulcippa was left in her traunce: in which place, rouſing the Thickets in purſuit of a wilde Hart, the Queene of Chaſtity eſpied the harmleſſe Lady ſtanding againſt a Tree, and beheld her ſweet breath to paſſe through her cloſed lips: At whoſe preſence, the Queene a while ſtood wondring at; but at laſt, with her ſacred thee awaked her, and withall aſked the cauſe of her traunce, and by what meanes ſhe came thither: Which poore awaked Lady, being amazed both at her ſodaine Maieſtie, and the ſtrangeneſſe of her paſſed Fortune and diſtreſſe, with farre fetcht ſighes, ſhee related what happened to her in thoſe deſart Woods. The heauenly Goddeſſe being moued with pitie, with a moſt ſmiling voyce cheared her vp, and with a Lilly taken from the ground, ſhe wiped the teares from off Dulcippa tender cheekes, which like to a riuer trickled from her Chriſtall eyes. This being done, Diana with an Angels voyce, ſpake vnto her as followeth.

Sweete Virgine (for ſo it ſeemeth thou art) farre better would it befit thy happy eſtate (happy I terme it) hauing paſt ſo many dangers, to ſpend the remnant of thy life amongſt my Traine of Nimphes, whereas ſpringeth nothing but Chaſtity and purity of life. Dulcippa, though in her loue both firme and

conſtant,

constant, yet did she condiscend to dwell with Dianas Nimphs: where now, instead of parly with courtly Gallants, shee singeth Songs, Carrols, Roundelayes: in stead of Penne and Incke, wherewith she was wont to write Loue-letters, shee exerciseth her Bow & Arrows, to kill the swift-fat Deare: and her downie Beddes, are pleasant Groues, where pretty Lambes doe graze.

But now returne wee againe to the raging Emperour, who sifted the matter out in such sort, that hee found the Empresse giltie of her Sonnes want, and the Doctor to bee the instrument of Dulcippas death: who being desperat (like one that vtterly detested the cruelty of the Empresse) would not alleadge, that he had but set the Lady in a traunce, but openly confess'd that he had poysoned her & for that fact was willing to offer vp his life to satisfie the Law, therefore the angry Emperour sweares, that nothing shall satisfie his Sonnes reuengement, but death: and thereupon straightly commaunded the Empresse to be put in prison, and the Doctor likewise to be lockt in a strong Tower: but yet because shee was his lawfull Wife, and a Princesse borne hee something sought to mittigate the Law, that if any on within a tweluemonth and a day would come and offer himselfe to combate in her cause against himselfe, which would be the appealant Champion, she should haue life: if not to bee burnt to ashes, in sacrifice of his Sonnes death: all which was performed as the Emperour had commanded.

But now all this while the poore Prince liues alone within the Woods, making his complaints to the flockes of Sheepe and washing their wooll with his distressed teares. His bedde whereon his body rested, was turned into a Sun-burnd bank: his chaire of state, couered with grasse: his musicke, the whistling winds: the Rethoricke, pittifull complaints and moanes, wherewith he bewayled his passed fortunes, and the bitter crosses of his vnhappy loue:

The solitarie place wherein this Prince remained, was not farre distant from the Groue, where Dulcippa led her sacred life: who by chaunce in a morning at the Sunnes vprising, attyred in greene vestments, bearing in her hand a

Bow bended, and a quiuer of arrowes hanging at her backe, with her hayre tyed vp in a Willow wreath, least the Bushes should catch her golden Tresses to beautifie their branches: in this manner comming to hunt a sauage Hart, she was surprized by a bloody Satire bent to rape, who with a bloody mind pursued her: and comming to the same place where Prince Valentine fedde his mourning Lambes, hee ouertake her, whereat shee gaue such a terrible shrike in the Wood, that shee stird vp the Shepherds princely mind to rescue her: but now when the bloody Satyre beheld a face of Maiestie shrowded in a shepherds clothing, immediatly hee scudded through the Wods meze swifter then euer fearefull Deare did run.

But now gentle Reader, heere stay to reade a while, and thinke vpon the happy meeting of these Louers: for surely the imagination thereof will lead a golden witte into the Laberinth of heauenly ioyes: but being breathlesse in anoyding passed dangers, they could not speake a word, but with stedfast eyes stood gazing each other in the face: but comming againe to their former senses, Vallentine brake silence with this wauering speach.

What heauenly wight art thou (quoth hee) which with thy beautie hast inspired me?

I am no Goddesse (replyed shee againe) but a Virgin vowed to keepe Diana companie, Dulcippa my name: a Lady sometime in the Grecian Court, whilst happy fortune smilde; but being crost in loue, here doe I vow to spend the remnant of my dayes. And with that, hee catching the word out of her mouth, said.

Oh you immortall Gods: and is my Dulcippa yet aliue? I, I, aliue I see she is: I see that swart celestiall beautie in her face, which hath banished deepe sorrow from my heart: and with that kissing her, hee said. See, see, faire of all faires that Nature euer made, I am thy Valentine, thy vnhappy Loue, the Prince of Greece, the Emperours true Sonne, who for thy louely sake, am thus disguised, and for thy loue, haue left the gallant Court, for this quiet and homely country life. With that, shee take him about his manly necke, and breathed many a bitter sigh into his bosome: and after with

weeping

weeping teares, discoursed all her passed dangers, as well the crueltie of the Empresse, as of the vertuous deed of the good Doctor. And hauing both recounted their passed fortunes, they consented (disguised as they were) to trauell to the Grecian Court to see if the Destenies had transformed the state of the Emperour or his regiment; for now no longer outcries, nor heauie stratagems, or sorrowfull thoughts sought to pursue them; but smiling fortune, gratious delights, and happy blessings. Now Fortune neuer meant to turne her whéele againe, to crosse them with calamities, but intended with her hand to powre into their hearts oyle of lasting peace. Thus whilst Apolloes beames did parch the tender twigs, these two Louers sate still vnder the branches of a shadie Beech, recounted still their ioyes and pleasures: and sitting both thus vpon a grassy bancke, there came trauelling by them an aged old man: bearing in his withered hand a staffe to stay his benummed body: whose face when Prince Vallentine beheld, with a gentle voyce he spake vnto him in this sort.

Father, God saue you: How happeneth that you wearied with age, doe trauell through the desart Groues, befitting such as can withstand the checkes of Fortunes ficklenes? Come faire old man sit downe by vs: whose mindes of late were mangled with griefe, and crost with worldly cares.

This good old Hermite hearing the curteous request of the Prince, sate downe by them, and in sitting downe, he fumbled forth this speech.

I come (young man) from yonder Citie, whereas the Emperour holds a heauy Court, and makes exceeding sorrow for the want of his eldest Sonne, and for a Lady which is likewise absent: the Empresse being found guilty of their wants, is kept close prisoner, and is condemned to bee burnt, vnlesse within a twelue-moneth and a day, she can get a Champion that will enter Battaile in her cause: and with her, a Doctor also is adiudged to suffer death. Great is the sorrow that is there made for this noble Prince, and none but commends his vertue: and withall the deserued praises of the absent Lady.

Father (replyed then the Prince) thou hast told vs tydings

full of bitter truth, able to enforce an iron heart to lament: for cruell is the deome, and most vnnaturall the Emperour, to deale so hardly with his Quéene.

Nay (quoth the old man) if she be guilty, I cannot pitty her, that will cause the ruine of so good a Prince: for higher powers must giue example vnto their subiects.

By Lady Father (quoth the Princely Shepheard) you can well gueſſe of matters touching Kings; and to be a witneſſe of this accident, wee will presently goe vnto the Court and see what shall betide vnto this distressed Quéene. This being said, they left the aged man, and so trauailed towards the Grecian Court: and by the way, these Louers did consult, that Prince Valentine attired like a Shepheard, should offer himselfe to combat in his Mothers cause, and so to expresse the kinde loue and nature which was lodged in his Princely breast. But being no sooner arriued in the Court, and seeing his Father to take the combat vpon himselfe, presently he kneeled downe, and like an obedient Sonne, discouered himselfe, and withall Dulcippas strange fortunes: whereupon the Empresse and the Doctor were presently deliuered, and did both most willingly consent to ioyne these two Louers in the bands of Mariage: where after they spent their dayes in peace and happinesse.

This pleasant Discourse being ended, which Sir Lancelot had told to the exceeding pleasure of the greatest company, but especially of the Red-rose Knight, who gaue many kind thanks. At this time the windes began to rise, and blow chéerefully, by which they sayled on their iourney successfully from one coast to another, till at the last they arriued vpon the coasts of Prester Iohns Land, which was in an euening when the day began to lose her christall Mantle, and to giue place to the Sable garments of gloomy night: where they cast Anchor, vnséene of any of that Country Inhabitants.

Chap. VI.

What happened to the *Red-Roſe Knight*, and his company in the Court of *Preſter Iohn*, and how the *Red-roſe Knight* ſlew a Dragon with three tongues, that kept a golden Tree in the ſame Country: with other attempts that happned.

THe next Morning by the breake of day, the Red-roſe Knight roſe from his Cabben, and went vpon the Hatches of the Shippe, caſting his eyes round about, to ſee if hee could eſpie ſome Towne or Cittie where they might take harbour: and in looking about hee eſpied a great ſpacious Cittie, in the middle whereof ſtood a moſt ſumptuous Pallace, hauing many high Towers ſtanding in the ayre like the Grecian Piramides, the which he ſuppoſed to be the Pallace of ſome great Potentate: therefore calling Sir Lancelot (with two other Knights) vnto him, hee requeſted them to goe vp into the Citie, and to enquire of the Countrey, and who was the Gouernour thereof; the which thing they promiſed to doe: ſo arming themſelues, (as it was conuenient, being ſtrangers in that Country) they went vp into the Citie; where they were preſently preſented vnto Preſter Iohn, who (being allwayes liberall and courteous vnto Strangers) gaue them a royall intertainment, leading them vp into his Pallace: and hauing intelligence that they were Engliſh-men, and aduenturous trauailours, he ſent foure of his Knights for the reſt of their company, deſiring them in the Knights behalfe, to returne to the Court, where they ſhould haue a friendly welcome, and a Knightly entertainment.

Thus when the Red-roſe Knight had vnderſtode the will of Preſter Iohn, by his foure Knights, the next euening with his whole company hee repaired to the Cittie, which was right Noble and fayre, and although it was night, yet were the Stréetes as light as though it had béene mid-day, by the cleare

reſplendant brightneſſe of Torches, Creſſetts, and other Lights which the Citizens ordained to the intertaining of the Engliſh Knights. The Streets through which they paſſed to goe to the Kings Pallace, were filled with people, as Burgomaſters, Knights, and Gentlemen, with Ladies & beautifull Damoſels, which in comely order ſtood beholding their cõming. But when the Red-roſe Knight was entred the Pallace: hee found the renowned Preſter Iohn ſitting vpon his Princely Throne, vnder-propt with pillers of Jaſper ſtone: who after he had giuen them an honorable welcome, he took the Red-roſe Knight by the hand, and led him vp into a large and ſumptious Hall, the richeſt that euer he had ſæne in all his life: But in going vp certaine ſtayres hee looked in at a window, and eſpied fayre Anglitora the Kings daughter, ſporting amongſt other Ladyes; which was the fayreſt mayde that euer mortall eye behelde, and I thinke that Nature her ſelfe could not frame her like: but being entred the Hall, they fõud the Tables couered with coſtly fare ready for ſupper: when as the Engliſh Knights were ſet at the Kings Table in company of Preſter Iohn and Anglitora, with other Ladyes attending (hauing good ſtomaches) they fedd luſtily; but Anglitora which was placed right ouer againſt the Red-roſe Knight, fedde only vpon his beauty and princely behauiour, not being able to withdraw her eyes from his diuine excellencie: but the renowned Preſter Iohn for his part, ſpent away the ſupper time, with many pleaſant conferences touching the countrey of England and King Arthurs princely Court: the report of which fame, had ſo often ſounded in his eares. But amongſt all other deuiſes, he told the Engliſh Knights of a Trée of gold, which now grew in his Realme, and yéerely brought forth goldé fruit, but he could not enioy the benefit thereof, by reaſon of a cruell Dragon that continually kept it: for the conqueſt of which golden trée, hée had many times ſolemnly proclaimed through that part of the World, that if any Knight durſt attempt to conquer it, and by good fortune bring the aduenture to an end, he ſhould haue in reward thereof his Daughter the faire Anglitora in marriage: to which many Knights reſorted as well of forraine Countreys, as his owne Nation; but none proued ſo fortunate to ac-

accomplish the wished conquest, but lost their liues in the same aduenture: therefore I fully beleeue, if all the Knights in the world were assembled together, yet were they all vnsufficient to ouercome that terrible Dragon.

With that the Red-rose Knight with a bold courage stood vp, and protested by the loue he bore vnto his countryes King, he would performe the enterprise, or lose his life in the attempt: so in this resolution hee remained all supper time, which being ended, the English Knights were brought into diuers chambers: but amongst the rest, the Red-rose Knight and Sir Launcelot were lodged neere to the fayre Anglitora, for there was nothing betwixt their Chambers, but a little Gallery: into which being come, and no sooner layd in their beds, but the Red-rose Knight began to conferre with Sir Launcelot in this manner.

What thinke you (quoth he) of the enterprize I haue taken in hand: Is it not a deed of honour and renowne?

Surely (replyed Sir Launcelot) in my iudgement it is an enterprize of death: for euery man in this countrey adiudgeth you ouercome and destroyed, if you but once approach the sight of the Dragon, therefore bee aduised, and goe not to this perrilous aduenture, for you can obtaine nothing thereby but reproach and death: and doubtlesse they are counted wise that can shun the misuentures, and keepe themselues from danger.

But then (quoth the Red-rose Knight) shall I falsifie my promise; and the promise of a noble minde ought still to bee kept: therefore, ere I will infringe the Vow I haue made, I will be deuoured by the terrible Dragon, And in speaking these words they fell asleepe.

During which time of their conference, fayre Anglitora stood at their chamber doore and heard all that had passed betwixt them, and was so surprized with the loue of this gentle Red-rose Knight, that by no meanes shee could restraine her affections: and returning to her chamber, casting her selfe vpon her Bedde thinking to haue slept, but could not, shee began to say secretly to her selfe, this sorrowfull lamentation.

Alas mine Eyes, what torment is this you haue put my heart vnto: for I am not the woman that I was wont to be,

for

for my heart is fiered with a flame of amorous desires, and is subiect to the Loue of this gallant English Knight, the beautie of the world, and the glory of Christendome. But fond fœle that I am, wherefore doe I desire the thing which may not be gotten, for I greatly feare, that hee is already betrothed to a Lady in his owne Countrey. And furthermore his minde is garnished with Princely cogitations, that I may not enioy his Loue: and he thinketh no more of me, then on her that he neuer saw. But graunt that hee did set his affection vpon mée, yet were it to small purpose; for he is resolued to aduenture his life in the conquest of the Golden trée, where hee will soone bee deuowred by the terrible Dragon. Ah, what a griefe & sorrow will it be to my heart, when I shall heare of his vntimely death for hee is the choise of all Nature, the Prince of Nobilitie, and the flowre of worship: for I haue heard him say, that hee had rather die honourably in accomplishing his Vow, then to returne with reproach into England. Which happy country, if these eyes of mine might but once behold, then were my soule possessed with terrestriall ioyes. Anglicora with these words fell asléepe, and so passed the night away till the day came: who no sooner with his bright beames glisted against the Pallace walles, but the Red-rose Knight arose from his bed, and armed himselfe in great courage, ready for the aduenture: where after hée had taken leaue of the King, and all the rest of his English friends, hée departed forth of the Citie towards the Golden trée, which stood in a low vally, some two miles from the Kings Pallace:

This morning was fayre and cleare, and not a cloud was séene, the elements and the Sun cast his resplendant beames vpon the earth: at which time the Ladyes and Damosels mounted vpon the highest Towers in the Pallace, and the common people came vp to the battlements and walles of Churches, to behold the aduenture of this valiant Knight, who as then wēt most ioyfully on his iourney, till he came to the vaile of the Golden trée, wherein being no sooner entred, but he beheld a most cruell and terrible Dragon come springing out of his hollow Caue. This Dragon was farre more bigger then a horse, in length full thirtie foote, the which incontinently as

soone

as hee was out of his Caue, began to raise his necke, set vp his eares, and to stretch himselfe, opened his throate, and casting forth thereat most monstrous burning flames of fire: Then the Red-rose Knight drew out his good Sword, and went towards him, whereat the Monster opened his terrible throat, whereout sprang three tongues, casting forth flaming fire in such sort, that it had almost burnt him. The first blowe that the Knight strooke, hit the Dragon betwixt the two eyes so furiously that hee staggered: but being recouered, and feeling himselfe most grieuously hurt, hee discharged from his throat such abundance of thicke running smoake, that it blinded the Knight in such sort, that hee saw nothing: but yet notwithstanding hee lifted vp his Sword, and discharged it vpon the Dragon where he imagined his head was, and strooke so furious a blow, that hee cut off his three tongues close by their rootes: by which the Dragon indured such marueilous paine, that hee turned his body so sodainely round, that his tayle smote the valiant Knight a mighty blow vpon his backe, whereby hee fell downe vpon the Sands; being thus ouerthrowne, hee was in minde most marueylously ashamed, but after a while, hauing recouered himselfe, hee ran to the Dragon againe, and with his good Sword smote such a terrible blow vpon his tayle, that it cut it off in the middle: the which peece was seuen foote in length. The Dragon through the great paine that hee felt, came and incountred the Knight in such a fashion, that he beate him downe to the ground, and after stood ouer him as though he had been dead: but the Knight take his Sword, and vnderneath him thrust it vp to the Hilts so farre that it pierced his heart: which when the Dragon felt as smitten to death, began to runne away with the Sword sticking in his belly, thinking to haue hidden himselfe in his Caue but his life departed before hee could get thither. Incontinently, when the Red rose Knight had rest himselfe, and saw that the Dragon was dead, he recomforted himselfe, and went and drew out his Sword from his belly, which was all to bestayned with his blacke blood; and after take the Dragons three Tongues and sucke them vpon his Sword; and likewise pulled a branch from the golden Tree, which hee

boze in his hand: and so in triumph went towards the Cittie: and being come within the sight thereof, hee lifted vp the Golden branch into the ayze as high as he could, that it might glister in the Sunne for the people to behold, (which stood vpon high Turrets, expecting his comming,) who perceiuing it, with great admiration began to wonder. Some there were that gathered greene Hearbes and Flowers, and strewed the way whereas the Knight should passe to goe to the Kings Pallace, saying: that all Honour ought to bee giuen to so noble and glorious a Conquerour.

Faire Anglitora amongst all other, was most ioyfull, when she beheld the glistering brightnesse of the Golden branch, and commanded her Waighting-maydes to put on their richest attyres, to solemnize the honour of that excellent Victory.

And to conclude, he was met at the Citie gate, with the melody of Drummes and Trumpets, and so conducted to the Kings Pallace: where he was right honorably entertayned of Prester Iohn and his Nobles. Surely there is no man so eloquent, that can discourse by writing the great ioy that Anglitora tooke at his returne: and generally the whole Inhabitants had thereat exceeding pleasure.

But now when the valiant Red-rose Knight had entered the Hall, and had set the Golden branch vpon an Ivory Cupboard richly furnished with costly Plate, the English Knights and many other Ladyes began to daunce most ioyfully, and to spend the time in delicious sports till Supper was ready, and then the King and the Red-rose Knight was set: and with them, the noble and faire Anglitora, Launcelat du Lake and other English Knights: where (all supper while) there was no other conference holden, but of the valiant encounters of the Red-rose Knight: who for his part did nothing but make secret loue signes to faire Anglitora.

What shall I make long circumstances? The Supper passed, and the houre came that the generall company withdrew them into their Chambers, the Red-rose Knight was conducted to his Lodging by many Noble men and others, which brought the Golden branch after him, and so bequeathed him for that night to his silent rest. But presently after the Noble-

mens

mens departure, Anglitora entred into his Chamber, bearing in her hand a siluer Bason full of warme perfumed Waters, the which shee had prouided to wash the Dragons blood from his body: which when the Red-rose Knight perceiued, and thinking vpon the kind loue that shee proffered him, put off his Cloathes, and made himselfe ready to wash. Faire Anglitora being attired in a white Frocke without sleeues, turned vp her Smocke aboue her elbowes, and so with her owne hands washed the body of the Red-rose Knight.

But now when this gentle Batcheler beheld her louely Body, her faire & round Breasts, the whitenesse of her Flesh, and that hee felt her Hands marueilous soft, hee was so much inflamed with the ardent desire of loue, that in beholding her Beauty, hee began to embrace her, and kissed her many times most courtiously: and so after, when he had been well washed, Anglitora caused him to lie in his Bedde, beholding his well formed limbes, of colour faire and quicke, and could not turne her eyes from his sight: Thus as they were beholding each other without speaking any word, at last the noble Knight spake to her in this manner.

Most deare Lady, you know that by this Conquest, I haue deserued to bee your Husband; and you, through kind loue, to be my Wife; whereby I may say, that you are mine, and I am yours: and of our two Bodies, there is but one: Therefore I require you to seale vp the first quittance of our loues, which is, that we two for this night, might sleepe together: and so accomplish the great pleasure that I haue so long wished for.

Ah most Noble Knight (answered the faire Lady) what in mee lyeth (that may bring you the least motion of content) shall with all willingnesse be performed: But yet I coniure you by the promise of true Knight-hood, that you will saue mine Honour, lest I bee made a scandall to my Fathers glory.

There is no man in the world (quoth he) that shall preserue thine Honour more then I. What if you sleepe this night with me in bed, doe you any more then your duty, in that I am your Husband, and best beloued Friend.

My deare loue (replyed she againe) there is no pleasure which

I will deny yée: but for this night, you shall haue patience, for I will neuer yéeld vp the pride of my Virginitie, till my Father hath giuen me Mariage: and therefore I desire you, that to morrow you will request that fauour at his hands: which being graunted and performed, then accomplish your content.

When the Red-rose Knight had vnderstood his Ladyes minde, hée like an Honourable Gentleman, was content to obey her request. What shall I say more? but that the night drew on to the wonted time of sleepe, which caused those two Louers (for the time) to breake off company. Here slept the Red-rose Knight till the next morning: which at the breake of day, was presented with a Consort of Musicke, which the King himselfe brought into his Chamber. Their melody so highly contented his minde, that he threw them a Gold chaine, which was wrapped about his wrist: a gift plainely expressing the bounty that beautified his princely breast. The Musicians being departed, hée arose from his rich Bed, and went vnto the King, whom he found as then walking in a pleasant Garden: of whom he required his Daughter Anglitora in marriage, in recompence of his aduenture. The which request so displeased the King, that all his former curtesies was exchanged into sodaine sorrow, and would by no meanes consent that Anglitora should bee his betrothed Spouse; and answered: that first hee would loose his Kingdome, before shée should bee the wife of a wandring Knight.

The noble Red-rose Knight, when hée vnderstood the vnkind answere of Prester Iohn (all abashed) went vnto Sir Launcelot, and his other friends, and certified them of all things that had happened: who counselled him, that the nert morning they should depart.

After this conclusion, they went to the King, and thanked him for the high Honour hée had grac'd them with: and, after that, went and visited their Shippe, where for that day they passed the time in pleasure: and so when the scouling night approached, the Red-rose Knight went to the faire Anglitora, and certified her of the vnkind answere of her cruell Father: whereat shée grew sorrowfull, and grieued in minde: but

at

at laſt better conſidering with her ſelfe, ſhée yéelded her fortune fully at his pleaſure, promiſing, that for his loue, ſhée would forſake both Countrey, Parents, and Friends, and follow him to what place ſoeuer hée pleaſed to conduct her. And it is to be ſuppoſed, that this night the fayre Anglitora take all the richeſt Iewels which ſhe had, and truſſed them in a fardle, and ſo when it was a little before day, ſhée came vnto the Red Roſe Knight and awaked him: who preſently made him ready, and ſo departed ſecretly from his Chamber, till they came to their Shippes: where they found all the reſt of the Engliſh Knights ready to depart: So, when they were all a Board they hoyſted Sayle, and departed from the Port. To whoſe happy iourney, we will now leaue them for a time, and ſpeake of the diſcontents of Preſter-Iohn, who all that night was exceeding ſorrowfull for the vnkind anſwere, which he had giuen to the Red-RoſeKnight, and ſo Melancholly that he could neither ſléepe nor reſt: but at the laſt hee concluded with himſelfe, that he would goe & conuey the Engliſh Knights (at their departing) vnto their Ships; to the end that being in other countreys, they might applaud his courteſies vſed to Strangers.

So in the morning hee aroſe and went to the Chamber where the Red roſe Knight was lodged, whom hee found departed contrary to his expectation. After that, he went into his Daughters Chamber, where he found nothing but relentleſſe walles, which in vaine hée might ſpeake vnto: whoſe abſence droue him into ſuch a deſperate minde, that hée ſuddenly ran to the Sea coaſtes, where hee found many of his Citizens, that ſhewed him the Shippes wherein the Engliſh Knights were, which was at that time from the Port or Hauen, more then halfe a mile Then the King (weéping tenderly) demaunded of them, if they had ſéene his Daughter Anglitora? To whom they anſwered, that they had ſéene her vpon the Shippe hatches in company of the Red-roſe Knight. At which the King bitterly lamented, beating his Breſt, and tearing his milke-white Hayre from his Head, vſing ſuch violence againſt himſelfe, that it greatly grieued the beholders.

At that time there was many of his Lords preſent, who by

gentle perſwations, withdrew him from the Sea coaſts to his Pallace: where he many dayes after, lamented the diſobedient flight of his Daughter.

CHAP. 7.

How *Celia* the Queene of the *Fayrie* Land was found dead, floting vpon the waues of the Sea: with other things that happened to the Engliſh Knights.

MAny dayes the windes blew chearfully in ſuch ſort, that the Engliſh Ships were within kenning of the Fayery Land: at which Sir Lancelat tooke an occaſion to ſpeak vnto the Red-roſe Knight, and put him in remembrance how hee had promiſed Cælia to returne into her Countrey: vnto which hee anſwered, and ſaid: That he would keepe promiſe, if the Deſtenies did afford him life. And thereupon commanded the Maſter Pilot to make thitherward: but the windes not being willing, rayſed ſuch a Tempeſt on the Sea, that the Shippe was caſt a contrary way, and the Marriners by no means poſſible could approach the Fayery land. At which time, the noble Queene Cælia ſtood by the ſea ſide vpon an high Rocke, beholding the Engliſh Ship as it paſſed by, as her vſual manner was euery day ſtanding, expecting her deare Loues returne, many times making this bitter lamentation to her ſelfe.

Ah gentle Neptune, thou God of Seas and Windes, where is my deſired Loue: bring him againe vnto mee, that day and night wæpeth for his company. Thus ſhe complained at the ſame inſtant when her Louers Shippe ſayled by, for ſurely ſhe knew it by the Banners and Enſignes which were diſplayed in the winde: but when the poore Lady perceiued the Ship to turne from her, ſhe was ſore abaſhed and diſmayed. In ſtead of ioy, ſhe was forced to wæpe teares: and inſtead of ſinging, was conſtrained to make ſorrowfull complaints. In this manner ſhe aboad there all that enſuing night, and cauſed Fires and

great

great Lights to be made on the ſhore, thinking thereby to call the Red-roſe Knight vnto her.

This order kept ſhee euery day and night for the ſpace of ſixe weekes, wayling the want of him, whom ſhe loued more deare then her owne heart: but when the ſixe weekes were paſt, and that the Fayerie Queene perceiued that ſhe ſhould haue no tydings of her Loue, ſhe went from the Rocke (all in diſpaire) into her Chamber; where being entred, ſhee cauſed her Sonne to be brought vnto her, whom ſhee kiſſed many times, for the loue ſhe bore vnto his Father: and after beholding the little Infant, croſſing her Armes, with a ſigh comming from the bottome of her heart, ſhe ſayd: Alaſſe my deare Sonne, alaſſe thou canſt not ſpeake to demaund tydings of thy Father, which is the braueſt Knight, the moſt vertuous, and the moſt valiant in Armes that God euer formed. Oh where is Nature (ſweet Babe) that ſhould enioyne thee to weepe, and my ſelfe more then thee, for the loſſe of ſo braue a Prince; whoſe face I neuer more ſhall ſee? Oh cruell and vnkind Fortune: my heart hath concluded, that I goe and caſt my ſelfe, headlong into the Sea, to the intent, that if the Noble Knight bee there buried, that I may lye in the ſame Sepulchre or Tombe with him: where contrariwiſe, if hee be not dead, that the ſame Sea that brought him hither aliue, bring me to him being dead. And to conclude, before I commit this deſperate murther vpon my ſelfe, with my Blood I will write a Letter, which ſhall be ſerued to my Veſtments or Attyre, to the intent that if euer my body bee preſented to the Red-roſe Knight, that then this bloody Letter may witneſſe the true loue that I bore him, to the houre of my death.

Many Ladyes and Damſels were in her company whilſt thus ſhee lamented her Knights abſence: who hearing of her deſperate intended death, made exceeding ſorrow. Some there were that ſo mightily grieued, that they could not ſpeake one word: other ſome there were that ſought to perſwade her from her deſperate intent: but all in vaine. For ſhe preſently went from them, and with her owne blood writ a Letter, and wrapping it in a Sear-cloth, and then ſolued it to the Veſtures wherein ſhe was clothed; then taking her Crowne, ſhee bound

it

from her head with a Golde chaine which the Red-rose Knight before time had giuen her. Then when shee had done all this, shee came to her little Sonne, and many times kissed him, and so deliuered him to the Ladyes and Damsels to bee nourished: & so after taking leaue of them all, she departed toward the sea, whither being come, she went to the top of the high rock, where she began to looke downe vpon the Sea, and after casting her selfe vpon the Earth, looking vp towards Heauen, she sayd.

Thou God of my fortunes, Lord of the Windes & Seas: thou that broughtest into this country the right perfect Knight, in beauty, manhood, and all vertues, graunt that when my soule hath made passage out of this world, my body may be intombed in his bosome: which words being sayd, shee turned her eyes towards her Pallace, and spake with a high voyce: Adue my deare Babe, adue you glistring Towres, my royall Pallace: adue Ladyes and Damsels: and lastly, adue to all the world, And in saying so, she cast her selfe into the Sea, & there desperately drowned her selfe.

But yet such was her fortune, that the waues of the Sea bore her dead body the same day to the English Knights Ship, which as then lay in a Road where they had cast Anchor for to rest that night, and to be short, it so happened at the same houre when her dead Body was cast against the Shipp, the Red-rose Knight went vp the Hatches to take the fresh ayre: where (looking about) he espyed the dead Lady richly attyred in cloth of Gold, that gorgiously shone in the Water, the which he presently caused to be taken vp and brought into the Ship: where looking wishly vpon her, he knew her perfectly well: and after staping to kisse her pale Lippes, hee found the bloudy Letter which hee had compiled, wrapt in Seare-cloth: so, taking it and reading the contents thereof, his Blood began to change, and to war reede like the Rose, and presently againe as pale as ashes. Whereat Sir Launcelot and the other Knights were greatly abashed, but especially Anglitora, who demaunded the cause of his griefe: Whereunto the Red-rose Knight was not able to answere a word, the sorrow of his heart so exceeded: yet notwithstanding, he deliuered the bloody letter to Anglitora, the contents whereof are these that follow.

The

THou bright Star of *Europe*, thou Choſen of *England* for proweſſe & beautie: When wilt thou return to fulfill thy promiſe made vnto her, that many a day hath had her eyes planted vpon the Seas after thee, ſhedding more teares in thy abſence, then the Heauens conteineh Starres? Ah my deare Loue, makeſt thou no reckoning nor account of thy promiſe that thou madeſt to me at thy departure? knoweſt thou not, that euery noble mind is bound to keepe his word, vpon paine of reproach and ſhame? but thou haſt infringed it, and haſt broken thy oath of Knighthood: which no excuſe can recouer. For ſince I laſt ſaw thy Shippe floating on the Seas, I neuer came within my Pallace till the writing hereof, nor neuer lay in Bedde to take my reſt, nor neuer ſate in iudgement on my Countries cauſes: but for the ſpace of fortie dayes, I ſtood vpon a Rocke, expecting thy teturne, till famine conſtrayned me to depart. There haue I ſtood day and night, in raine and in ſnow, in the cold of the morning, and in the heate of the Sunne; in faſting, in prayers, in deſires, in hope; and finally, languiſhing in diſpaire and death: Where, when I could heare no newes of thy returne, I deſperately caſt my ſelfe into the Sea, deſiring the Gods, that they would bring mee either aliue, or dead to thy preſence, to expreſſe the true affection that I haue euer borne thy noble Perſon: Thus fare thou well. From her that liued and dyed with an vnſpotted minde.

Thine owne true Louer, till we meete in the Elizian fields: thy vnhappy Cælia
Queene of the Fayerie Land.

THus when faire Anglitora had read those bloody lines, she greatly lamented her vnhappy death: & withall, requested the Red-roseKnight, in that she dyed for his sake, to beare her Body into England, and there most honourably intombe it: to which he most willingly consented. So causing her body to be imbalmed, they hoysted sayle, and departed towards England: into which Country, they within foure moneths safely ariued. At whose comming, the Inhabitants and dwellers, greatly reioyced, but chiefely the Red-rose Knight and his company, who at their first ariuall, kneeled downe vpon the Earth, and gaue God thankes for preseruing them from so many dangers and perils, to their high renowne, and triumphant victories.

After this, they intombed the body of Cælia most honourably as befitted a Princesse of her calling. This being done, they departed towards Pendragon Castle, standing in Walles, where as then King Arthur kept his royall Court: where being arriued, they found the King, and many other Nobles in a readines to giue them a Princely welcome: amongst whom was faire Angelica the Nun of Lincolne, mother to the Red-rose Knight; yet kept in so secret a manner, that neither he, nor she, had any suspition thereof, but spake one to another as meere strangers, The discouery of whom, discoursed at large in the second part of this History: as likewise the strange fortune of Cælias little Sonne, which the Ladyes in the Fayerie land called by the name of the Fayerie Knight; and by what meanes he came to be called the Worlds Tryumph: with many other strang accidents, &c. But now (to conclude this first part) the Red-rose Knight and the faire Angiitora were solemnely maried together, and liued long time in King Arthurs Court in great ioy, and tranquilitie, and peace.

FINIS.

THE

Second Part of the

Famous Hiſtorie of Tom a Lincolne, the Red-roſe Knight.

Wherein is declared his vnfortunate Death, his Ladyes diſloyalty, his Childrens Honours, and laſtly, his Death moſt ſtrangely reuenged.

Written by the firſt Author.

At *London* Printed by *Auguſtine Matthewes*, dwelling in the Parſonage Houſe of *Saint Brides* in Fleete-ſtreet. 1631.

THE

To the Reader.

PRomiſe is debt, (gentle Reader) I haue therefore performed what in my firſt Part I promiſed; which was, to ſhew thee the vnfortunate death of the *Red roſe Knight*, his beloued Lady *Anglitoras* diſloyal affections towards him, his Childrens Honours, Renownes, and Dignities: and in the period of this ſmall Hiſtorie, his death both iuſtly, truely, and ſtrangely reuenged: The reading of which (if with good conſideration) I doubt not but ſhall bring vnto thee much pleaſure and delight, being (for the quantitie thereof) nothing inferiour to the beſt that hath beene written of the like Subiect (I meane) of Knights aduentures, and Ladyes beloued. I therefore dedicate this to thy reaſon, knowing that this old Prouerbe may confirme my expectation, which is; That good Wine needs no Buſh: nor a pleaſing Hiſtorie craues no ſhelter. Farewell.

R. F.

The

The second part of the famous History of *Tom a Lincolne*, the Red-rose Knight, &c.

Chap. I.

How *Tom a Lincolne* knew not his Mother, till forty yeares of his age, nor whose Sonne he was: Of King *Arthurs* death, and his dying speeches, and of what hapned thereupon.

WHen Arthur, that renowned King of England (being one of the nine Worthies of the World) had by twelue seuerall set Battailes, conquered the third part of the Earth; and being wearied with the exploytes of Martiall aduentures, in his olde dayes betooke himselfe to a quiet course of life; turning his Warlkie habiliaments, to diuine Bookes of celestiall meditations: that as the one had made him famous in this World, so might the other make him blessed in the World to come. Seauen yeares continued quiet thoughts in his breast: seauen yeares neuer heard he the sound of delightfull Drums; nor in seuen yeares beheld hee his thrice worthy Knights of the Round Table, flourishing in his Court: by which meanes his Pallace grew disfurnished of those Martiall troupes, that drew commendations from all forraigne Kingdomes. In this time, most of those renowned Champions, had yéelded their liues to the conquering Tiranny of pale Death, and in the bowels of the Earth lay sléeping their eternall sléepes, the royall

King

King himselfe laden with the honour of many yeeres; and hauing now (according to nature) the burthen of death lying heauie vpon his shoulders: and the stroke lifted vp to diuide his body from his soule, he called before him all the chiefest of his Court: but especially his own Quæne, the Red-rose Knight, and his Lady Anglitora, with the faire Angellica, the Nunne of Lincolne, whom hee had so many yeeres secretly loued: and being at the poynt to bid a wofull farewell to the world, with countenance as Maiesticall as King Priam of Troy, he spake as followeth.

First, to thee my loued Queene, must I vtter the secrets of my very soule, and what wanton escapes I haue made from my nuptiall Bedde, otherwise cannot this my labouring life, depart from my fading body in quiet: Long haue I liued in the delightfull sinne of Adulterie, and polluted our mariage Bed with that vile pleasure: pardon I beseech thee and with that forgiuenesse (which I hope will proceed from thy gentle heart) wash away this long bred guilt: the Celestiall powers haue graunted me remission. Then turning to Angellica the Nunne of Lincolne, hee said.

Oh thou my youths delight; thou whose loue hath bereaued my Quæne of much mariage pleasure: thou, and but onely thou, haue I offended withall, therefore diuine Angellica, forgiue me: I like a rauisher spotted thy Virginitie. I crept thy sweet budde of Chastitie; I with flattery won thy heart, and ledde thee from thy Fathers house (that good Earle of London) to feede my wanton desires: by thee had I a Sonne, of whom both thou and I, take glory of: for in his worthynesse remaine the true Image of a Martialist; and this renowned Knight of the Red-rose, is he: He liues: the fruit of our wanton pleasures, borne at Lincolne, and there by a Shepherd brought vp, few knowing (till now) his true Parents. Wayward not deere Sonne; thinke not amisse sweete Queene; for thou my louely Angellica: Be not dismayde you honourable States, heere attending my dying houre: for as I hope presently to enter into Elizium Paradise, and weare the Crowne of diserfull Glory, I haue reuealed the long secrets of my heart, and truely brought to light those things, that the darke-

darkneſſe of obliuion hath couered. Now the Mother knoſnes her Sonne, the Sonne the Mother. Now may this valiant Knight boaſt of his Pedegrée, and a quiet content ſatisfie all your doubts. Thus haue I ſpoke my minde, & thus quieted, my ſoule bids the world farwell. Adue faire Quæne, adue dære ſon, farwell louely Angellica; Lords and Ladyes adue vnto you all: you haue ſæne my life, ſo now behold my death: as Kings doe liue, ſo Kings muſt die. Theſe were the laſt of Kings Arthurs words: And being dead, his death not halfe ſo amazed the ſtanders by, as the ſtrange ſpæches at his liues farwell.

The Quæne in a raging ielouſie fretted at her Marriage wrongs, proteſting in heart, to be reuenged vpon the Nunne of Lincolne.

The Nunne of Lincolne, ſæing her wantonneſſe diſcouered, toke more griefe thereat, then ioy in the finding of her long loſt Son; ſuppoſing now, that (the King being gone) ſhe ſhould be made a ſcandall to the world.

The Red-roſe Knight, knowing himſelfe to be begot in wantonneſſe, and borne a Baſtard, toke ſmall ioy in the knowledge of his Mother.

Anglitora (Tom a Lincolnes Wife) exceeded all the reſt in ſorrow, bitterly ſobbing to her ſelfe, and in heart making great lamentation, in that ſhe had forſaken Father, Mother, Friends, Acquaintance, and Countrey, all for the loue of a Baſtard, bred in the wombe of a ſhameleſſe Strumpet: therefore ſhe purpoſed to giue him the ſlip; and with her owne Sonne (a young gallant Knight, named the Blacke Knight, in courage like his Father) to trauaile towards the Kingdome of Preſter Iohn, where ſhe firſt breathed life, and her Father reigned.

In this melancholy humour ſpent they many dayes, troubling their braines with diuers imaginations. The Court, which before rung with Delights, and flouriſhed in gallant ſort, now thundred with Complaints; euery one diſliking his owne eſtate: Diſcontent as a proud Commaunder gouerned ouer them, and their Attendants were idle Fancies, and diſquiet Thoughts: and to ſpeake troth, ſuch a confuſed Court was ſeldome ſæne in the Land; for no ſooner was Kings Arthurs Funerall ſolemnized, but the whole troupes

of Lords, Knights and Gentlemen, Ladyes, and others, were (like to a splitted Shippe torne by the Tempest of the Sea) scuered, euery one departed whither his Fancie best pleased.

The Red-rose Knight conducted his Mother Angellica to a Cloyster in Lincolne, which place she had so often polluted with her shame, there to spend the remnant of her life in repentance; and with her true Lamentations, to wash away her blacke spottes of sinne, that so grieuously stayneth her Soule: and from a pure Virgine, made her selfe a dessolute Strumpet.

Likewise, King Arthurs widdowed Queene, like to irefull Hecuba, or the iealous Iuno, kept her Chamber for many dayes, pondering in her minde what reuenge shee might take vpon Angellica her Husbands late fauorite.

On the other side Anglicora Lady and Wife to the Red-rose Knight, with her Sonne the Blacke Knight, made prouision for their departure towards the Land of Prester Iohn, where shee was borne: so vpon a night when neither Moone nor Starelight appeared, they secretly departed the Court, onely attended on by a Negar or Black-more; a Slaue fitting to prouide them necessaries, and to carry their Apparell and Iewels after them; whereof they had abundant store: The Blacke Knight her Sonne, (so called rather by fierce courage, then this blacke complexion) was all fired with the ardent desire that hee had to see his Graundsire Prester Iohn; therefore without taking leaue of his Father (being then absent in the company of his leawde Graunde mother) with a noble spirit conducted his mother to the Sea side, where a shippe was ready then to hoyst Sayle, where of the Pilots they were most willingly receiued for Passengers. And in this manner departed they the Land, the Blacke Knight wore on his Helmet for a Scutchon, a blacke Rauen feeding on dead mens flesh; his Caparisons were all of blacke veluet imbroodered, which most liuely figured forth the blacke furie lodged in his Princely bosome. Anglicora his Mother, had the attyre of an Amazon, made all of the best Arabian silke, coloured like the changeable hue of the Rainebow: about her necke hung a Iewell of a wounderfull value, which was a Diamond cut in the fashon of a Heart split a sunder with a Tur-

kish

kiſh Semiter: betokening a doubt that ſhee had of her Knights loyaltie. The ſlauiſh Moore that attended them, went all naked, except a ſhaddow of greene Taffata which couered his priuie parts: vpon his foote a Mozifcho Shoe, which is nothing but a Soale made of an Aſſes hide, buckled with ſmall Leathers to his inſteps vpon his Head hee woze a Wzeath of Cypzes guilded with pure gold, and a Plate of Bzaſſe about his necke cloſe locked, with the wood bond-ſlaue ingrauen about it. In this manner paſſed they the Seas, and was by theſe ſtrange habites wondzed at in all Countries where they came: In which trauels wee will leaue them foz a time, and ſpeake of other things pertinent to our Stozy.

CHAPTER. 2

Of *Tom a Lincolnes* ſtrang manner of trauelling, his wofull departure from *England*, and of his ſorrowfull lamentations for the vnkindneſſe of his Lady.

When Tom a Lincolne (the Red-roſe Knight) had ſpent ſome two months in the company of his Mother at Lincolne, giuing her as much comfozt as a Sonne might, hee left her very penitent foz her liues amiſſe, and returned to the Court, where hee left both his Wife and her Sonne, the Blacke Knight, thinking at his ariuall, to finde ſo ioyfull a welcome, and ſo courtious an intertainement, that all the blacke cloudes of Diſcontent might bee blowne ouer by their happy meeting: but as ill chaunce had allotted all things fell out contrary to his expectation; foz hee neither found Wife, Childe, Seruant, noz any one to make him anſwere: His Plate and Treaſure was deminiſhed, his houſe-hold Furniture, imbeſſelled, and by Theeues violently carryed away, hee had not ſo much as one Steed left in his Stable, foz them the Queene had ſeazed on foz her vſe: and furthermoze (by her commandement) a Decree was made, that

whomsoeuer in all the Land shewed him any duty, or gaue him but homely reuerence, should loose their heads, for shee had intitled him, The base borne seed of Lust, a Strumpets brat, and the common shame of the dead King. This was the malice of King Arthurs widow: and assuredly Quæne Iuno neuer thirsted more for the confusion of Hercules then shee did for Tom a Lincolns ouerthrow: But yet this griefe (being cast from a Princesse fauour, to a vulgar disgrace) was but a pleasure, to the sorrow he tooke for the misse of his Lady and Sonne: No nelves could hee heare of them, but that they were fled from the furie of the angry Quæne: which was but a vaine imagination laid vpon the enuious time: but farre otherwise did mischiefe set in her foote, the doting minde of his Lady Anglitora intended to a further reach, which was to abandon his presence for euer, and to thinke him as ominous to her sight, as the killing Cockatrice. The effect of this his Wiues sodaine dislike, shee had caused (before her departure) to be carued in stone ouer the Chimny of his lodging, how that She deserued damnation to leaue Father, Friends, and Countrie, for the disloyall loue of a Bastard.

Of all griefes to him this was the very spring, the roote, the deapth, the hight: which when hee had read, hee fell into a sounde, and had it not beene for two Pages that attended him, he had neuer recouered: in this agony the vaines of his breast sprung out into blood, and all the partes of his body swate with griefe: downe fell hee then vpon his knæs, and immediatly pulled the King from his finger which shee had giuen him when they were first bethrothed, and wash't it with his teares, kissing it a hundred times: All that euer hee had from her did hee wash in the blood that trickled frem his bosome and after bound them in a Cypresse to his left side, directly where his heart lay, protesting by that God that created him, and was the guide of all his passed fortunes, neuer to take them thence, till either hee found his Lady, or ended his life. He likewise made a solemne vow to Heauen, neuer to cut his Haire, neuer to come in Bedde, neuer to weare Sho, neuer to taste Food, but onely Bread and Water, nor neuer to take pleasure in humanitie, till he had eased his griefe in the

presence

preſence of his deereſt Anglitora, and that her loue were reconciled to him.

Being thus ſtrangely reſolued, hee diſcharged his Seruants and Pages, giuing them all the wealth that he had, and clad himſelfe in tand ſheeps ſkins, made cloſe vnto his Body, whereby hee ſeemed rather a naked Wilde man bredde in the Wildernesſe, then a ſencible creature brought vp by ciuill conuerſation. Thus bare footed, and bare legged, with an Iuory Staffe in his hand, hee ſet forward to ſeeke his vnkind Wife, and vnnaturall Sonne: giuing this wofull farewell to his natiue Countrey.

Oh you celeſtiall Powers (quoth he) wherefore am I puniſhed for my Parents offences? Why is their ſecret ſinnes, made my publike miſerie? What haue I miſ-done, that my Wife reſiſteth me, and like a diſcourteous Lady forſakes mee, making her abſence my preſent calamitie.

Oh thou gratious Queene of Loue, I haue beene as loyall a ſeruant in thy pleaſures, as euer was Hero to her Leander, or Pryamus to his Thisbie: Then what madding furie, like a cruell commander, hath taken poſſeſſion of my Anglitoras heart, and placed infernall conditions, whereas the pure vertues of modeſt behauiour had wont to bee harboured? It cannot bee otherwiſe, but the enraged Queene with her vnquenchable Enuie, hath driuen her hence; and not only of one heart made two, but of two ſeekes to make none; which is, by vntimely death, to worke both our confuſions: therefore proud Queene, farewell: let all the furies haunt thee, and may thy Court ſeeme as hateſull to thy ſight, as the torments of Hell fire to a guilty Conſcience. Vngratefull England likewiſe adue to thee, for all the honours I haue brought into thy bounds, and with the ſpoyles of forraigne Countries, made thee the onely Prince of Kingdomes: yet thou repayeſt me with diſgrace, and load'ſt mee with more contempt, then my neuer conquered Heart can indure: ſo kiſſing the ground with his warme lippes, that had ſo long foſtered him, and with many a bitter teare, and deepe ſobbe, like a Pilgrime, (as I ſaid before) hee take leaue of his natiue Countrey, and ſo went to the Sea ſide; where hee heard of his

Wife and his Sonnes departure, after whom (as soone as the Wind conueniently serued) hee take shipboord: Where wee will now likewise leaue him to his fortune vpon the Sea, and speake of the professed malice the Quæne prosecuted against Angellica, the mother of the Red-rose Knight.

CHAP. 3

Of the wofull death of *Angellica*, Mother to the *Red-rose Knight*, and of the death of the iealous Queene and others.

THe beautious Angellica, being left by her Sonne, the Red-rose Knight, (at his departure) in a Monestarie at Lincolne, there to bewaile her former offences; and for her youthes pleasure, in age to taste the bitter food of sorrow: the day time shee spent in grieued passions, the night shee wasted with sighs and heart-breaking sobbes: shee fed on carefull thoughts, her drinke was streames of salt teares: her companions, thoughts of her passed wanton pleasures: her bed no better then the cold earth: her sleepes were few, but her comforts lesse: her continuall exercise, was with a Needle to worke in silke vpon the Hangings of her Chamber, how shee was first wooed, then won to King Arthurs pleasures, in what manner their meetings were, their wanton daliances, his imbraces, her smiles: his Princely gifts, her courteous acceptance: and lastly, the birth of her thrice worthy Sonne, his bringing vp, his honours in the Court, and his strange discouerie: all which shee had wrought, as an Arras worke, with silke of diuers colloures, in a peece of the purest Holland cloath. In doing this, twise had the golden Sunne runne his circumference about the world, twise had the pleasant Spring beautified the Earth with her changable mantles, twise had nipping Winter made the Fields barren, and the Woods leafelesse: and twise had the yeere shewed himselfe to all mankind: in which time of

twise

twise twelue moneths, euery day made shée a sorrowfull complaint for the wracke of Honour, and her Virginities losse, which so willingly she surrendzed: in this time, so greatly had sorrow and griefe changed her, that her eyes (which had wont like twinckling Diamonds to giue light to all affections) were now sunke into their Cels, and séemed like a hollow Sepulcher newly opened: her Face, wherein Beautie her selfe dwelt, and her Cheekes the true die of the Lillie and the Rose intermixt, now appeared old and withen, like to the countenance of Hecuba when her husband King Priamus, and all her Princely Children were slaine at Troyes destruction: and her tresses of Gold-like Hayre, which like to Indian Wyers hung ouer her shoulders, were now growne more white then Thistle downe, the Icickles of frozen Ice, or the white mountaine Snow: all these griefes of Nature had not age changed, but the inward griefe of her carefull heart.

But now marke the woefull chance that harned, euen vpon the day, which by computation she had in former times yelded vp her Maydens pride, and lost that Jewell that Kingdomes cannot recouer: vpon that hapelesse day, came there a Messenger from the Quéene, to bid her make preparation for death; for on that day should bee her liues end, and her fortunes period: which she most willingly accepted of, and tooke more ioy thereat, then to be inuited to a Princely Banquet.

Be not dismayde (said the Messenger) for you shall haue as honourable a death as euer had Lady: seauen seuerall Instruments of death shall be presented to you for a choyse, and your owne tongue shall giue sentence which of them you will die by: whereupon this Messenger set this sorrowfull Lady at a round Table, directly in the middle of a very large roome, (whereinto he had led her, hung all about with blacke; where being placed as to a Banquet, or some solemne Dinner of State, there entred seauen Seruitours in disguised shapes like vnto Murtherers, with seauen seuerall deadly seruices in Dishes of siluer Plate: The first, brought in Fire burning in a Dish, if shée would, to consume her body to ashes: The second brought in a Dish, a twisted Cord, to strangle her to death: The third, a Dish full of deadly Poyson, to burst her body withall: The

fourth

fourth, a sharpe edgd Rayzor or Knife, to cut her thzoat: The fifth, an Iron wzacke to teare her body into small pæces: The sixth, a Dish full of liue Snakes, to sting her to death: And the seuenth an impoysoned Garment, being wozne, that will consume both flesh and blood. These seauen deathfull Seruitours hauing set downe their Dishes (the least whereof bzings pzesent death) shée was commanded by the Messenger, which of them she should chuse to die withall, and to make spædy choyce; foz he was swozne to the Quéene (on whom he attended) to sée it that day accomplished. At these his wozds, shée fell pzesently vpon her knées, and with a courage readier to yéeld to deaths furie, then to the mercie of the liuing Quéene, said as followeth.

Oh thou guider of this earthly Globe, thou that gauest my weake nature ouer to a wanton life, and from a Virgin chast, hast made me an infamous Strumpet: thou that sufferedst only a King in Maiestie to pzeuaile against mée, and with the power of greatnesse wonne mée to lewdnesse; foz which I am now domned to a pzesent death, and fozced by violence, to bidde this tempted wozld adue; Inspire mee with that happy choyce of death, as my Soule may haue an easie passage from my body. First, to dye by Fire, to an earthly imagination sémes terrible, and farre different from nature: secondly, to die with strangling cozd, were base, and moze fitting foz robbers, théeues, and malefactozs: thirdly, to die by deadly poyson, were a death fez Beasts and wozmes, that féeds vpon the bosome of the Earth: fourthly, to die by cutting knines and slicing razozs, were a death foz cattle, fowles, and fishes that dies foz the vse of man: fifthly by an iron wzacke to end my life, were a barbarous death, and against mans nature: but seuenthly, to die a lingring death, which is a life consuming by wearing of impoysoned garments, (where repentance may still bée in company) will I chuse: therefoze sweet Messenger of my death doe thy office, attyze me in these robes; and the manner of my death I beséech thée make knowne vnto the Quéene: tell her (I pzay thée) I fozgiue her; and may my death bée a quiet vnto her soule, foz my life is to her eares as the fatall sound of night Rauens, oz the Mermaides tunes.

Maine

Vaine world, now muſt I leaue thy flattering intiſements, and inſtead of thy pompe and glory, muſt ſhortly treade the dolefull march of pale death: and this body that hath bæne ſo pleaſing to a Princes eye, muſt bee ſurrendred vp for wormes to fæd vpon. Many other words would ſhe haue ſpoken, but that the commaunding Meſſenger (being tyed to an houre) cauſed her to put on the impoyſoned Roabes which no ſoner came to the warmth of her body, but the good Lady after a few bitter ſighes, and dreadfull gaſpes yælded vp the ghoſt, being (through the extremitie of the infectious Garment) made like vnto an Anatomie; which they wrapped in Seare cloth, & the next day gaue her buriall according to her eſtate and ſo returned to the inraged Quæne, kæping then her Court at Pendragon caſtle in Wales, into whoſe preſence was no ſoner the Meſſenger come, but the angry Quæne beyond all meaſure being deſirous to heare of Lady Angelicas death, in a rage ran and claſped him about the middle, ſaying.

Speake Meſſenger ſpeake, is the vile ſtrumpet dead? Is the ſhame of womankind tortured? Is my hearts griefe by her death baniſhed my boſome? ſpeake for I am ouermaiſtred with doubts.

Moſt gracious Quæne (quoth the Meſſenger) reſolue your ſelfe of her death, for the cold earth hath incloſed vp her body: but ſo patiently tooke ſhee her death, that well might it haue moued a Tygers heart to remorſe; for in troth, my heart relented at the manner of her death, Neuer went Lambe more gently to the ſlaughter, nor neuer Turtledoue was more meeke, then this wofull Lady was at the meſſage of her death: for the Elements did ſæme to mourne, cloſing their bright beauties vp to blacke and ſable Curtaines; and the very ſtintie walles (as it were) ſweate at the agonie of her death, ſo gentle, meeke and humbly tooke ſhee her death; commending her ſelfe vnto your maieſtie, wiſhing that her death, might be your ſoules contentment.

And could ſhee bee ſo patient (quoth the Quæne) that euen in death would wiſh happineſſe to the cauſers thereof? farewell thou miracle of womankind, I haue bæn to thee a ſa-

nage Lionnelle: I was blinded at the report of thy wantonnelle, elſe hadſt thou bẽn now aliue: all my cruelnelle againſt thée, I now déeply repent, and for thy deare hearts blood by me ſo rathly ſpilt, ſhall bee ſatiſfied with the liues of many ſoules. Hereupon, ſhee in a furie commanded the Meſſengers head to bee ſtricken off, and ſeuen Seruitours to bee hanged all at the Court Gate, and afterward cauſed their limbes to be ſet vpon high Poles by the Common high wayes ſide, as an example of her indignation.

Neuer after this houre (ſuch is the remorſe of a guiltie conſcience) could ſhée ſleepe in quiet, but ſtrange viſions of this Lady (as ſhee thought) ſeemed to appeare to her: the leaſt noiſe that ſhe heard whiſpering in the ſilence of the night, did ſhe imagine to bee ſome Furie to dragge her to Hell, for the death of this good Lady: the Windes (as ſhee imagined) murmured forth Reuenge, the running Riuers hummed forth Reuenge, the flying Fowles of the Ayre whiſtled out Reuenge: yea euery thing that made noyſe (in her conceit) gaue remorſe for Reuenge: and till that her owne life had giuen ſatiſfaction by death for the ruine of ſo ſweet a Ladyes life, no food could doe her good, no ſléepe quiet her braine, no pleaſure content her minde, but Deſpaire with a terrible countenance, did euermore attend her, willing her ſometime to throwe her ſelfe head-long from the top of a Tower, ſometime by poyſon to end her dayes, ſometime by drowning, ſometime by hanging, ſometime by one thing, ſometime by another: but at laſt in the middle of the night, hauing her heart déepely ouermaiſtred by diſpaire, ſhee tooke a Girdle of pure Arabian Silke, which Girdle ſhee firſt wore on her Princely Nuptiall day when King Arthur marryed her: this fatall Girdle ſhee made a riding knot of, and therewithall vpon her Bed poſt ſhee hanged her ſelfe. Thus blood (you ſée) being guiltleſſe ſhed, is quitted againe with blood.

The Quéene being dead, was not ſo much pitied of the people, as the good Lady Angellica, little lamentation was made for her death; for euery one expected the like vntimely ende: but according to the aleadgeance of Subiects her Noblemen gaue her a Princely Funerall, and ſet ouer her an

Iron

Iron Tombe, in ſignification that ſhee had an Iron heart, and Flintie conditions.

Yœre will wée leaue the dead to their quiet reſtes, and returne to the Blacke Knight, and his Mother Anglitora, with the Indian ſlaue that attends them: for ſtrange bee the accidents that happen to them in forraigne Countryes: and after, wée will ſpeake what hapned to the Red-roſe Knight on the Sea.

CHAP. 4

By what meanes *Anglitora* became a Curtizan, and how her Sonne the *Blacke Knight* loſt himſelfe in a wilderneſſe.

THe Blacke Knight, his Mother Anglitora, and the Blacke-amoor ſlaue, hauing happily croſt the Seas, and arriued in a Countrey very fertill to ſée to, replenished with all kinde of Trees and fruit, yet were there no Inhabitants to finde, but onely an old Caſtle built of Flint ſtones, the Turrets whereof were made like the Grecian Piramedes, ſquare and very high: At this Caſtle gate they knocked ſo boldly (each one careleſſe of all accidents that might happen) as it rung into the Chamber were the Knight of the Caſtle lay: who immediatly ſent a very low ſtatur d Dwarfe to ſée who knocked, and if they were ſtrangers, to direct them vp into his Chamber to take ſuch kinde courteſies as the Caſtle affoorded: for indeed hee was a Knight of a bountifull condition, & full of liberalitie. The Dwarffe no ſooner comming to the Gate, and eſpying people in ſuch ſtrange diſguiſed attyres, neuer hauing ſéene the like before, without ſpeaking one word, ran amazedly vp to his Maſter, certifiing him, that a kinde of people of an vnknowne nation was arriued, and that they ſéemed rather Angels (in ſhape) then any earthly creatures.

The Knight of the Caſtle hearing this, came downe and met them in a large ſquare Court paued with marble ſtone,

where hee kindly gaue them entertainement, promising them both lodging and other needfull things they were destitute of.

The three Trauellers accepted of his courtesies, and being long before weather-beaten on the Seas, thought themselues from a deepe dungeon of calamities lifted to the toppe of all pleasures and prosperitie; thus from this paued Court the Knight led them vp to his owne Chamber, wherein was a fire made of Iuniper wood & Frankinsence, which smelled very sweete: the walles were hung about with rich Tapestrie, whereon was writ the story of Troyes destruction, the Creation of mankind, and the fearefull description of the latter day of Doome: likewise hung vpon the said wales, Instruments of all sorts of musicke, with such varietie of other pleasures, as they had neuer seene the like.

Now while these weary Trauellers take pleasure in beholding these things, the good Knight caused his Dwarffe (which was all the seruants that hee kept) to couer the Table, made of Cypresse wood, with a fine Damaske table-cloth, and thereon set such dellicates as his castle afforded; which was a piece of a wild Boze, rosted the same morning, with diuers other seruices of Fowles, whereof the Countrey had plentie: Their bread was made of the Almonds mired with Goates milke (for no corne grew in this soyle) their Drinke, of the wilde grape, likewise mingled with Goates milke; which is in my minde, accounted restorative: to this Banquet were the Trauellers placed, where hauing good stomackes, they quickly satisfied hunger, & after began to chat of their aduentures what danger they indured by sea, & how luckily they arriued in that Countrey, giuing the courteous Knight great thanks for his kindnesse.

On the other side, when the Banquet was ended, euery one rising from the table, he take an Orphirian that hung by, and caused his Dwarffe to daunce after the sound thereof: the strings whereof hee himselfe strayned with such curiositie, that it moued much delight, especially the Lady Anglitora, whose eyes and eares were as attentiue to the Melody, as Helens were to the inchaunting Musicke of the Grecian Paris. In this kind of pleasure consumed they most part of the day, till

the

the bright Sunne began greatly to decline, then the Blacke Knight in a couragious spirit, said.

Sir Knight (for so you seeme to bee by your entertainement of Strangers) this Carpet kind of pleasure I like not, it disagrees with my young desires: the hunting of vntamed Tygers, the Tilts and Turnaments of Knights, and the Battels of renowned Warriours, is the glory I delight in: and now considering no other aduentrous exercise, may bee found in this Countrey, but only the hunting of Wilde beastes, I will into the Forrest and by manhood fetch some wilde Venison for my mothers supper.

The Knight of the Castle (seeing his resolution) furnished him with a hunting Iauelin, and so directed him to the Forrest, where most plentie of such pleasures were: God be his good speed, for wee will leaue the Blacke Knight in his exercise, and speake of the wanton affections of Anglitora, and the Knight of the Castle, that they cast vpon each other: a short tale to make, whereas two hearts make one thought, the bargaine is soone made: the Knight of the Castle hauing not had the presence nor societie of a Woman in seuen yeares before, grew as wantonly minded, as the Roman Tarquinius, when hee rauished the chast Lady Lucretia. On the other side, Anglitora hauing the venome of disloyaltie, grew so pliable to his desires, that at his pleasure hee obteined that loue which in former times the Red-rose Knight aduentured his life for; she that in former times was accounted the worlds admiration for constancie, was now the very wonder of shame, and the by-word of modest Matrons: this was the first dayes entrance into their wanton pleasures, which in all daliance they spent till the Sunne had lost the sight of the Earth: then expecting the returne of the Blacke Knight, from Hunting, they sate as demurely, as they had been the chastest liuers of the world; not a glance of wantonnesse passed betwixt them, but all modest and ciuill behauiours; in this sort stayed they attending for the returne of the Blacke Knight, but all in vaine: for hauing a wilde Panther in chase, hee followed so farre in the vnknowne Forrest, that hee lost himselfe, all that night trauelling to finde the way forth, but could not; sleepe

was to him as meate to a ſicke man; his ſteps were numberleſſe, like the ſtarres of heauen, or the ſands of the Sea: his deuiſes for recouerie little prʒeuailed, the further hee went, the further hæ was from returning: thus day and night (for many dayes and nights) ſpent hæ in theſe comfortleſſe trauailes; no gops chæred his heart, no comfort boze him company, but his patient minde: and now at laſt, when hee ſaw all meanes fruſtrate, hee reſolued to liue and die in that ſollitary Forreſt: his foode hæ made of the Fruits of træs, his drinke of the cleare running water, his Bed was no better then a heape of Sun-burnd Moſſe, his Canopies the azure Elements full of twinckling lights, his Curtaines a row of thicke branched Træs, the Torches to light him to his Bed, the Starres of Heauen, the Melodie or Muſicke to bring him aſlæpe, the croakes of Rauens, or the tearefull cries of night Owles: the Clocke to tell the houres of the night, were hiſſing Snakes, and Toades croaking in foggy graſſe: his morning Cocke the chærefull Nightingale, or the cherping Larke his companions on the day, were howling Wolues, rauening Lyons, and the wrathfull Boares: all (as the Fates had decræd) as gentle to him in fellowſhip, as people of a ciuill gouernment: for to ſay troth, time & neceſſitie had conuerted him to a man of wild conditions: for his hayre was growne long and ſhaggy, like vnto a Satyre: his fleſh tanned in the Sunne as an Indian: the nailes of his fingers were as the tallents of Eagles, wherewith hee could eaſily climbe the higheſt træs: garments hee had not any, for they were worne out, & as willingly was hæ content with nakedneſſe, as in former times hæ was with rich habiliments.

Thus liued hee for ſeauen yæres in this deſolate Forreſt, by which time hee was almoſt growne out of the fauour of a man: where for a time wee will leaue him, and prʒceed to other accidents, alſo wæ will ouer paſſe the leawd liues of Anglitora and the Knight of the Caſtle, nor ſpeake as yet any more of their ſeauen yæres adulterie; for numberleſſe were the ſinnes committed by them in thoſe ſeauen yæres, in that accurſed Caſtle.

CHAP.

CHAPTER. 5

How the *Red-rose Knight* found his Lady, and how he was most strangely murthered, and buried in a dunghill.

THE Blackamore slaue (as you haue heard) attended vpon them, like an obedient Seruant, and shewed all dutie and loue, till Angitora gaue her body to the spoyle of Lust, and from a vertuous Lady conuerted her selfe to a hated Strumpet, which vile course of life when the Indian perceiued, hee secretly departed the Castle, greatly lamenting the wrongs of his Master, the Red-rose Knight, whose noble minde deserued better at her hands. Day and night trauailed the poore slaue toward England, thinking to finde his Master there, and to reueale that which hardly hee thought would bee beléeued by him: wearie and oppressed with hunger went hée this long Iourney: many Prouinces hee passed through, before hée could learne the way towards England; and then was hée so farre from it, as at the first, when hée departed from the Castle.

The labouring Husbandman grieued not more to sée his Corne and Cattle taken by Théeues: nor the Marchant to heare of his Shippes suncke at Sea, then did this Indian at his vaine trauels, and wearisome Iourneyes to small purpose: so at last setting forward againe, hee came to the sea side, thinking to heare of some Shippe to giue him passage ouer: but alasse, one crosse falls after another, one mischiefe runnes vpon the necke of another: and one mischance seldome happens alone; so as this true hearted Negar stood beholding how the billowes of the Sea beate against her banckes, and the Whale fishes lay wallowing in the Waues: behold such a tempest suddenly arose, that by the force thereof, the poore slaue was cast into the Sea: but by reason of his Silken vaile tyde about his middle, and his great skill in swimming, (as most Negars bée perfect therein) kept himselfe from

drowning

drowning: and as good fortune would, the same tempest drone the weather-beaten shippe to the same shore wherein the Red-rose Knight (his master) was, which Shippe had bene seuen yeares vpon the Sea in great extreamitie, and before this tyde could neuer see land. By that time the tempest ended, the Shippe floted to land, wherein was left but onely the Red-rose Knight in his Palmers weede (for all the rest were starued vp for want of food) who being weake and feeble, climbed to the top of the Hatches, where when hee had perceiued the Negar labouring for life vpon the waters, cast out a long coard, and so saued him: whome when the Red-rose Knight saw, and perfectly knew, hee fell all most into a traunce for ioy, supposing his Lady and Sonne not to bee farre distant: but recouering his former senses, hee spake as followeth.

Oh blessed Neptune, hast thou vouchsafed to deliuer mee from the depth of thy bowels, and cast mee on land, where once againe I may behold my Anglitora, and my deare Sonne, the BlackeKnight. These seuen yeares famine indured on the Sea, hath bene a sweete pleasure to mee, in that the end brings mee to my desires. Full threescore of my miserable Companions in this Shippe, hath death seazed vpon, and through Famine, haue eaten one another, making their hungry bowels graues for the others Carcases; and though now this belly of mine (like the Canibals) haue bene glutted with humane flesh, and this mouth of mine tasted the blood of man: yet am I as pittifull as the tender hearted Mother, forgetting her Sonnes offences: and to my Anglitora will bee as kinde, as if neuer shee had trespassed: nor like the Grecian Helina, left her marryed Lord: So taking the Blackamoore by the hand. Hee demaunded of her welfare, and in what estate his Sonne remayned? The true hearted Negar could hardly speake for griefe, or vtter one word for teares: yet at the last with a wofull sigh, hee vttered forth these heart-killing speeches.

Oh my noble Maister (quoth hee) by you from a Pagan I was made a Christian: by you, from a Heathen nation without ciuilitie, I was brought to a Lard of Princely gouerment

uernment; and by you, till my departure, was I maintained in good manner: there if I should proue periured slaue, and a false Harlet towards you, my body were worthy to bee made foode for hungry Fowles of the Ayre, and for the rauening Beasts of the Fields: therefore now considering that dutie bindes mee to it, I will reueale such wofull chaunces; and such disloyall trickes shewed by your Lady as will make your heart tremble, your Sinewes shake, & your haire to stand vpright. Anglitora your Lady and Wife, hath dishonoured your Bed and polluted that sacred Chamber of secresie, which none ought to know, but onely you two: That mariage vow shee made in Gods holy Temple, hath shee infringed, and vntyed the knot of Nuptiall promise: in a Countrey farre from hence hath shee wrought this hated crime: in a Coũtrey vnpeopled liues shee in a Castle, which is kept by a Knight of a wanton demeanour; there liue they two in adultery, there liue they secreatly slæping in wantonnesse: and therefore these seauen yeares hath shee made her selfe the childe of shame: All this with extreame griefe doe I vnfold, and with a heart almost kilde with sorrow, doe I breath out the dutie of a seruant: if I haue offended, let my death make amends: for what I speake is truely deliuered from a heart vnfaigned.

All this time of this his sorrowfull Discourse, stood the Red-rose Knight in a bitter agonie, like one newlie dropt from the cloudes, not knowing how to take these discourtesies: one while purposing to bee reuenged, and with his nailes to teare out the Strumpets eyes: another while, bewayling her weake natute, that so easily was wonn to lewdnesse: but at last, taking to him (the vertue) patience, hee resolued to trauell to the Castle, & with his mæk perswasions sæke to winne her former wickednesse, & to forget, forgiue, and cast out of remembrance all these her vnwoman-like demeanours, obseruing the Prouerbe, That faire meanes sooner winnes a woman, then foule. Thus in company of his true seruant the Negar, hee take his iourney toward the Castle; where (after foure moneths trauell) they arriued; the Red-rose Knight) by the directions of the Negar, knocked, and in his Pilgrimes habite, desired meate and lodging for himselfe and his guide.

The first that opened the Gate, was his owne Lady, who immediately, vpon the sight of them blushed, as though some sodaine feare had affrighted her; yet dessemblingly (colouring her acknowledge of them) shee in a charitable manner gaue them entertainement and conducted them to a by roome at the backe side of the Castle: into which place shee sent them (by her Dwarffe) victuals from her owne Table, with a commaund, that the nert morning they should auoyde, and neuer more trouble that place.

This message sent by the Dwarffe, much disquieted the Red-rose Knight, and droue such amaze into his minde, that hee grew ignorant what to doe: And seeing his appointed time very short to remaine there, hee now thought fit to strike whilst the Iron was hotte, and to discouer what hee was: so taking the Scarffe of Jewells and Rings tyed to his left side against his heart (which shee knew perfectly well to bee the giftes of her Loue) and by the Dwarffe sent them her: The which no sooner shee beheld, but shee openly sayd to the Knight of the Castle, that their secret affections were discouered, and her Husband in the habite of a Palmer made abode in her House conducted thither by the Moore, to bring their shame to light, and to carry her thence to England, there to be punished for her sinnes. Hereupon the Knight and shee purposed the same night to rid themselues of that feare, and by some violent death sende the Palmer to his last abyding. Disquietnesse attended on all sides for that day, and euery houre seemed ten, till night approached; which at last came, though long lookt for. Then Anglitora in company of the Knight of the Castle, like vnto Murtherers, rose from their Bedds, euen at that houre of night when mischiefes are acted, when no noyse was heard but the barking of Wolues, the howling of Dogges, and the croaking of Night-owles, all assistance to blacke actions: In this manner came they into the Lodging of the Palmer who for wearinesse of his Journeyes, most soundly slept, little dreaming that such crueltie, could be lodged in the bosome of his wedded Wife: one whose loue he had first gained with great daunger, and alwayes esteemed as deare as his owne heart blood. All signes of duty

had

had shée obscured, not any remembrance had shee of Womanhood: Marriage Loue was forgotten, their passed ioyes were as things neuer been: not any thought of remorse remayned within her; but shee more cruell then the new deliuered Bear, or the Tyger starued for meate, by the helpe of the Knight of the Castle, tooke the Scarffe of Iewells (sent her from him the same euening) and by violence thrust them downe the Palmers throat: by which meanes they bereaued him of life and without any solemnity due to so braue a man, they buried him in a Dunghill without the Gate, not shedding so much as one teare for his death: so great was the envie of this his spitefull Lady. The poore Negar they set vp to the middle in the ground so surely fastned, that by any meanes he could not stirre from thence, where wée will leaue him wishing for death. The Red-rose Knight, or rather the vnhappy Palmer, in his vnchristian like Graue, and the Knight of the Castle with the murtheresse Anglitora, to their surfetting Banquets of sinne, and returne to the Blacke Knight, which had lost himselfe in the Woods.

CHAP. 6.

How the *Blacke Knight* being lost in a wildernesse became a wild man? how his Fathers Ghost appeared vnto him, and in what manner hee slew his owne Mother.

By this time the Blacke Knight grewe so naturall a Wilde-man, as though hée had bœne bredde in the Wildernesse: for day by day hee sported with Lions, Leopards, Tygers, Elephants, Unicornes, and such like kinde of Beasts, playing as familiarly with them, as in King Arthurs Court hée had done with gallant Gentlemen. But marke how it hapned one day aboue an other: Hee chaunched to walke downe into a Vally, where hee set himselfe downe by the Riuers side, and in humane complaints bewayled his owne estate, how beeing borne and bred of a

Princely Race, discended royally should thus consume his dayes in sauage sort, amongst Wilde beasts, and by no meanes could recouer his libertie, or free himselfe from that solitary Wilderneſſe, Being in this distresse of mind, a suddaine feare assayld him, his heart shiuered, his haire stood vpright, the Elements seemed to looke dimme, a terrible Tempest tore vp huge trees, the Wilde Beastes roared and gathered on a heape together, Birdes fell liueleſſe from the ayre, the Ground as it were trembled, and a sodaine alteration troubled each thing aboue him: in this amaze sate hee a good time, marueilling what would ensue; at last there appeared (as hee imagined) the Ghost of his Father newly murthered with a countenance pale and wan, with hollowe eyes (or none at all) gliding vp and downe before him: casting such fearefull frownes, as might make the stoutest heart in the world to tremble: and at last, setting himselfe before the Blacke Knight, spake as followeth.

Feare not my Sonne, I am the Ghost of thy murthered Father, returned from Plutoes hollow Region; I came from that burning Kingdome where continually flames an euerlasting Furnace; from the fearefull Pitte come I to thee for reuenge: Oh thou my Sonne, if euer gentle Nature were pryant in thy bosome: if euer thou tookest pleasure to heare thy Fathers honours spoken of; if euer thou desirest to haue thy life meritorious in this world, take to thee thy neuer failing Courage, and reuenge my death vpon thy adulterous Mother: thy Mother now liuing in the filthinesse of shame, making the Castle where shee now remaines in, a lustfull stewes: there was I murthered, and there buried in a stincking Dunghill; no man gaue mee Funeral teares, nor any sorrowed for my death: I that haue dared Death in the face, and purchast Honour in many Kingdomes, was slaine by my owne Wife, by my nearest Friend, by my second selfe, by Anglitora, by her whom the whole world admired for vertue: Rise (deare Sonne) rise, and hast thee to that Castle polluted with the shame of thy wicked Mother: Rise I say, and let the Pauements of that Castle, be sprinkeled with their detested blood, the blood of that Monster that

hath

hath not onely dispoyled my marriage bedde of honoured dignities, but like a tyrant to her owne flesh hath murthered mee. See how the angry Heauens (as it were) doe threaten my Reuenge: hearke how Hell-Furies doe howle and roare for Reuenge: my Wiues Adulterie at the hand of Heauen deserues Reuenge: My bleeding soule (Oh my Sonne) wandreth in vnquiet paths, till thou worke Reuenge: my death and murther cries ([redacted]) for Reuenge: then feare not (Sonne) to act it; for duty, loue and nature bindes thee to it, By Heauen, and by that great immortall Throane of happinesse: By that low Kingdome of eternall paines; By the huge Watrey Seas I past to follow her: By Earth and by the Soules of all the mortall men that euer dyed, I commaund, charge, and constraine thee to persеuere in this Reuenge, Hence to that foule defamed Castle, defamed by Adulterie defamed by Murther; there to my Soule doe thy latest dutie: there, wound thy cursed Mothers breast, there sacrifice her liues blood, there appease thy Fathers Ghost insenst with furie; so shall my Soule in ioy, enter the Fields of faire Elizeum: But if thou proue coward-like, and through feare deny to execute my glorious Reuenge, from this day hence-forth shall my pale, wan, leane, and withred Ghost with gastly lookes, and fearefull steps, pursue and follow thee. These were the words of his Fathers Ghost: and hauing spoken these words, with a grieuous groane, hee vanished. At this his sodaine departure, the Blacke Knight cryed with a loud and fearefull voyce saying.

My noble Father, stay; Oh stay thy hasty steppes: once more let mee heare thee speake. Whether flyest thou: Oh let me heare thy voyce againe: It will not be, He is vanished; and my Mother liues as a shame to all our generation. Oh thou staine of woman-hood: Oh thou bloody Lionesse: Oh brutish act: Oh beastly desires: Where shall I now finde a place to shed teares in: for my heart is rent into tenne thousand pieces, and the terrour of this deed, is too intolerable. Rest thou in peace, sweete Father: thou in thy life wert both wise and valiant: thy vertue, wisedome, and man-

hood make the very enemies to loue thée: Oh then, what fortune hadst thou, to die by the friendly trust of thy owne Wife, my disloyall Mother, thy neerest friend proud thy greatest enemie; and by a Womans malice, that heart was killed, that millions of Foes could neuer daunt. Oh sweete Red-rose Knight, most happy hadst thou been to haue dyed in the Fields of bloody Warre, and seal'd thy liues quittance amongst renowned Souldiers: then had thy death bene more honorable, my wicked Mother had not murthered thée, nor I bin inforst to take such bloody vengeance, as I intend (deare Father) for thy sake: for let mé neuer breath one day longer, nor view the next Mornings rising Sunne: let mé neuer liue imprisoned in this Wilderneſſe, let nothing prosper that [illegible] I take in hand, and here let the worlde end, if I cease to prosecute a mortall Reuenge, as the soule of my Father hath commaunded. Herepon hé set forward toward the Castle, conducted by what chaunce the Heauens had allotted him: not one steppe hé knew aright, nor what course to take to finde the direct way: but it hapned, that an ignis fatuus (as hee thought) or a goeing Fire, led him the right way out of the Forrest directly to the Castle where his dishonest Mother made her abode. But comming nére vnto the Gates, hé found all close, and neere vnto the Castle the Blackamoore set halfe way quicke into the earth, hauing (for want of foode) eaten most part of the flesh from his armes; whom the Blacke Knight soone digged vp, and kept aliue, to be a furtherance to his intended reuenge.

The poore Indian, being thus happily preserued from death, reuealed all that had happned in the said Castle; how his Mother liued in adultery, how his Father was murthered, why himselfe was set quicke in the earth; and lastly, for the loue of his dead Master, hé protested to conduct him through a secret Vault into the Castle, that in the dead of the night they might the easier accomplish their desired reuenge: Thus lingring secretly about the Castle till the middle of night: a (time as they imagined) to bé the fittest for their tragicall businesse: at last the midnight houre came, and through a secret Cell they entred vnder the Castle into

the Lodging where his Father was murthred. This is the place (quoth the Negar) where my sad eyes beheld thy Father both aliue and dead; so goeing from thence into the Chamber (which by chaunce, and as ill lucke had appointed) was through negligence left open, hee shewed him the Bedde where these Adulterers lay secretly sleeping in each others Armes, Oh dolefull sight, This lust, hath made me fatherlesse, and ere long this Weapon shall make me motherlesse: so kneeling downe vpon his knees, in a whispering manner hee said vnto himselfe. Yee lowring Destinies, now weaue vp the Webbe of their two liues that haue liued too long. You infernall Furies, draw neere: Assist me thou reuengefull God Nemesis, for on this Sword sits now such a glorious Reuenge, as being taken, the world will applaude mee for a louing Sonne. Hauing spoken these words, hee sheathed his Sword vp to the hiltes in the bosome of the Knight of the Castle, who lying in the armes of Anglitora, gaue so deadly a groane, that shee immediatly awaked: first looking to the Knight that was slaine in her Armes, then perceiuing her Sonne standing with his weapon drawne; yet wreaking in the blood of the dead Knight, meanacing likewise her death, with a wofull shrike she breathed out these words,

Oh what hast thou done my cruell Sonne? Thou hast slaine the miracle of humanitie; and one whom I haue chosen to be my hearts Parramour, and thy second Father.

Oh Lady quoth the (Blacke Knight) for Mother is too proud a title for thee: what Furie driueth thee to lament the deserued death of that lewde blood shedder, and not rather chose with heart-renting sighes, to bewaile the death of my Father, thy renowned Husband, whose guiltlesse body, euen dead, thou didst dispise, by buring him inhumanly vpon a dounghill; but Heauen hath graunted, and Earth hath agrée detesting both thy misdeedes, and hath sent mee to sacrifice thy blood vnto the Soule of my murthered Father, Whilst hee was speaking these words, Anglitora arose from her bed, and in her smocke which was of pure Cambricke) shee kneeled to her sonne vpon her bare knees, saying.

Oh thou my deare Sonne, whom once I nourisht in my

my painefull wombe, and fedde thée with mine owne blood, whom oft I choycely dandled in my armes, when with lullabyes and swéet kisses I rocked aslæpe: Oh farre bæ it from thée (my louing Sonne) to harme that breast, from whom thou first receiuest life: Of thée (my Sonne) thy Mother begging life. Oh spare the life, that once gaue thée life, with bleeding teares, I doe confesse my wanton offences, I doe confesse through mee thy Father dyed: Then, if confession of faults may merit mercie, pardon my life. Obscure not thy renowne with cruelty, making thy selfe vnkind and monstrous in murthering of thy Mother. I charge thée, by thy dutie that thou owest mæ; by all the bondes of loue betwixt a Mother and a Sonne; by all the kindnesse shewed to thée in thy infancy, let thy mother liue that begs life vpon her bare knées: Doe not thou glory in my miseries: let not my teares whet on thy cruellnesse: let not thy minde bæ bent to death and murther: bee no sauage Monster: bee not vnnaturall, rude and brutish: let my intreates preuaile to saue my life: wound not the wombe that fostred thée, which now I tearmed wicked, by onely fostring thée, what childe can glut his eyes with gazing on his Parents woundes, and will not faint in beholding them.

Hereupon the Blacke Knight not able to indure to suffer his Mothers further intreaties, least pittie and remorse might mollifie his heart, and so graunt her life (which to Heauen to take away hée had dæpely sworne) hé cut her off with these deadly words.

Lady, I am not made of Flint nor Adamant; in kinde regard of calamitie, I am almost strucke with remorse: but dutie must quite vndoe all dutie: Kinde must worke against kinde, all the powers of my body bé at mortall strife, and sæke to confound each other, Loue turnes to Hatred: Nature turnes to wrath, and Dutie to Reuenge: for mé thinkes my Fathers Blood with a groning voice, cryes to Heauen for Reuenge: therefore to appeale my Fathers angry spirit, here shalt thou yéeld vp thy déerest blood. Here was hee ready to strike, and with his sword to finish vp the tragedie: but that his grieued soule in kinde nature plucked backe his hand:

hand: whereupon with a great sigh he sayd.

Oh Heauens; how am I grieued in minde. Father forgiue mee, I cannot kill my Mother And now againe, mée thinks I sée the pale shaddow of my fathers Ghost glyding before mine eyes; mée thinkes hée shewes me the manner of his murther; mée thinkes his angry lookes threatens mée and tels how that my heart is possest with cowardice, & childish feare; Thou doest preuaile, O Father euen now receiue this sacrifice of blood and death; this pleasing sacrifice, which to appease thy troubled soule, I heare doe offer. And thus in speaking these words, with his Sword hée split the deare heart of his mother; from whence the blood as from a gushing Spring issued. Which when hee beheld, such a sodaine conceit of griefe entred his minde, considering that hée had slaine his owne Mother, whom in duty hee ought to honour aboue all liuing women, that hee rather fell into a frenzie thē a melancholy; and so with a pale countenance and gastly lookes, with spartling like to a burning Furnace, began to talke idely.

What haue I done? Whome hath my bloody hand murthered? Now woe vnto my soule for I am worse then the Viperous brood that eates out their Dammes wombe to get life vnto themselues: they doe but according to nature, I against all Nature; for I haue digged vp the bosome that first gaue mee life. Oh wicked wretch; where shall I nowe hide my head? for I haue slaine my selfe, in killing her: I haue staynde this Chamber héere with humane blood The Heauens abhorre me for this déed: The World condemnes mée for this murther, and Hell Furies will follow mee with shame and terrour: The Gods are grieued, Men (me thinks) flie my company: dead Ghosts arise in my distresses: I sée my Mother comes with a brest bléeding, threatning confusion to my fortunes. Oh thou vgly Spirit, cease to follow mée, torment me not aliue, for the wrath of Heauen is fallen vpon my head. Dispaire, where art thou? I must finde thée out, I will goe seeke thee through the world: and if in the world I finde thee not, Ile saddle winged Pegasus, and scale he mantion place of Ioue. I will ransake all the corners of

the skie. I will throwe downe the Sunne, the Moone, and Starres: then leauing heauen, I will goe seeke for Despaire in the loathsome poole of Hell; there in Plutoes Court will I binde blacke Cerberus vp in Chaines, the triple-headed Hellhound, that Porter of Hell gates, because hee let Despaire passe from thence. In this frantike sort ranne he vp and downe the Chamber, and at last, with the nayles of his fingers hee fell to graue vpon the Stone walles the picture of his Mother, imitating Pigmalion, hoping to haue life breathed into the same. Meane while the poore Indian with fleshlesse armes heaued vp towards Heauen, and on his bare knees, made his supplication to the Gods, for the Blacke Knights recouery of his wittes.

Oh you angry Heauens (quoth hee) reuoke your heauy doomes, forget this crime, forgiue this vnnaturall murther: pittie the state of this distressed Knight, and send some meanes to recouer his senses. Thou bright Lampe of Heauen, thou eternall light, although in iustice we haue deserued thy wrath, yet let my prayers, my neuer ceasing Prayers, my heartes renting Sighs, my deepe inforced Teares, worke some remorse from thy incensed ire, that either this Knight may recouer his lost senses, or set him free from death. Thus in a zealous manner prayed the poore Negar, desiring God to lay the Knights fault vpon his head, and reclaime his vnbridled rage: which Prayer was soone regarded by Heauen, for the Blacke Knight had immediatly his madnesse turned into a sad melancholly; and in a more gentle manner made his sad lamentations, as you shall heare in the next Chapter.

But now the Negar, that all the time of Anglitoras murther stood in a traunce, began now a little (considering the fright hee take at the Blacke Knights madnesse) to summon againe together his naturall senses; and perceiuing the vnchast Lady dead, cold, pale, wanne, lying weltering in her goare, and the blood of her false heart (shed by her owne child) all besprinckled about the Chamber, sayd as followeth.

Now (quoth the Negar, betwixt life and death) haue you shewne your selfe a dutifull Sonne, and nobly reuenged the death of your Father. These were the last words of the poore

Indian

Indian; which as then sanke downe, and neuer after breathed. Thereupon came forth the Dwarfe of the Castle, with great store of treasure, proffering the same to the Blacke Knight; who nothing thirsting after couetousnesse, refused it, and withall toke the Dwarfe in satisfaction for the Negars death, and crammed the treasure downe his throate; and after buryed the two Seruants together in one Graue. This being done he digged vp his Fathers body from the Dunghill, and brought it to the Chamber where his mother lay, and after in an Abby yard belonging to the Castle, he buryed them both likwise, in one Graue. This being done, hee knæled thereupon, and made his complaint in this manner.

CHAP. 7

Of the *Black Knights* melancholy lamentations ouer the graue of his Parents; and of other things that hapned.

O thrice happy for euer-more bee this ground that containes the bodyes of my vnfortunate Parents; for this Earth hath receiued the sweete Darling of Nature, and the onely delight of the whole World; the Sunshine of Christendome, and the glory of Mankinde: Oh thrice happy be the grasse, that from henceforth shall grow vpon this Graue: let neuer Sithe touch it, nor crafty lurking Serpent with venemous breath, or deadly poyson, hurt it: Let no Lyons pawes, nor Beares feet, tread vpon it: Let no Beastes Horne in any manner abuse it: Let no Birds with pecking, nor creeping filthy Vermine, no Winters nipping Frost, no nightly falling Dewes, no rage of the parching Sunnes heate, nor Starres, haue power from Heauen: nor fearefull Tempest nor horrible Lightning, in any manner annoy it: Let no Ploughman driue hither his weary Oxen, nor Shepheards bring hither their Sheepe, least by the Bulls rage it bee harmed, or by the harmelesse Sheepe it be eaten: but let it for euer grow, that the displaying thereof may reach to Heauen: and may from henceforth

this Graue be euer accounted sacred: and may the Grasse bee euer sprinkled with sweet Waters. Some good man vpon this Graue set a burning Taper, that then for euery anguish of my heart, I may beate my Breasts, till my Fistes haue strucken the winde from my body; and that my Soule may beare them company into Elizium. Come you wanton fleshly Satyres: Come you friendly Fawnes: Come you Fayries and Dryades, and sing sweet Epitaphes; lift vp your voyces to Heauen, and let your prayses bee in the honour of my Parents: my selfe like a wan, pale, and dead man, will beare you company: I will wearie the World with my complaints: I will make huge Streames with my Teares: such Streames, as no Banke shall barre: such Streames, as no Drought shall drye. But alasse what doe I meane to repeate these seuerall lamentations: since my deare Parents bee dead: since from the world they are parted: since they are buried without solemnitie: since my delights are all inclosed in the Grounde: yet will I still here make my complaints, though no good ease comes thereby, adding teares to teares, and sorrowes to sorrowes. Oh frowning Fortune. Oh vnlucky Starres. Oh cursed day that euer I did this deed, for now no sence, nor knowledge, takes their vnsensible bodyes of my griefes: in this Graue there is no feeling: in Death there is no pittie taken. Oh thou Siluanus thou commander of these Mountaines, helpe mee poore helpelesse soule to shed teares: for my religion, for my deuotion and Countries sake helpe mee: either let me haue some comfort in my sorrowes, or let me in Death, beare my Parents company. Thou seest what Torments I suffer; how my heart trembles, how my eyes flow with teares, how my head is with teares possest, how my Soule is full of horrible anguish: all this thou seest, and yet it little grieues thee to see it. Oh thou churlish ground, from henceforth cease any more to beare Fruit: cease to be deckt with Flowers, cease to be mantled in Greene, for the purest Flowers are withered. Thy Garlands are decayed: my deare Parents are too vntimely bereft of life: their sweete bodyes thou harborest, and in thy wombe deliueredst them as a food vnto

Wormes

Wormes. Therefore thou cruell Earth, howle and mourne, for thou art vnworthy of such blessed bodies. And now, oh you pittifull Heauens, heare my complaints, conuey them to the Soules of my deceased Parents: for my lamentations by the gentle Windes, are blowen from the East vnto the West: the dry Land, and the Watry Seas, are witnesses to them: Therefore no day shall rise, but it shall heare my complaints: no night shall come, but it shall giue eare vnto my moanes: neither day nor night, shall be free from my heart-breaking cryes. If that I groane, mée thinkes the Trees are bended, as though they pittied my teares. The very Ground (for griefe) I sée alters her complexion. All that I heare, all that I see, all that I feele, giues fresh increase to my sorrow. I will neuer hencefoorth come in peopled Towne, nor inhabited Cittie, but wander all alone vp and downe by low Vallyes, and steepy Rockes: or I will dwell in darke Dennes frequented onely by Wilde Beastes, where no path of man was euer séene, or to the Woods I will goe, so darke, and beset so thicke with shadow branches, that no Sunne may shine there by day, nor no Starre by night may be séene, whereas is heard no voyce, but the outcryes of horrible Goblings, the balefull shrikes of Nightowles, the vnlukie sounds of Rauens and Crowes; there shall mine eyes bee made watry Fountaines; there will I make such plaints, as Beasts shall mourne to heare them; such plaints will I make, as shall rend and riue strong trees, make wilde Panthers tame, and mollifie hard flinty stones: And if by chance that sléepe oppresse mee, on the bare and cold Ground shall these wofull limbs rest: the grécne turfe shall serue as a Pillow for my head: boughs and branches of trées shall couer me: and then I hope, some venemeus Serpent will spédily giue mee my deaths wound, that this my poore soule may be released from flesh and blood: by which meanes I may passe to those Fields, those faire Elizium Fields, whereas my murthered Parents daily resort. In this manner complained the Blacke Knight vpon his Parents graue, thrée dayes and nights together, still knéeling vpon the cold ground and could not by any imagination bee comforted: euery thing

his eyes beheld, renewed fresh sorrow, and drew on new lamentations: but at last, the Powers of Heauen intending to graunt him some ease, cast his distressed Senses into a quiet slumber: where lying vpon his fathers graue, wee will let him for a time rest.

CHAP. 8.

How the Fayerie Knight came to be called the *Worlds Triumph*, Of his ariuall in England, of the two Knights deaths, and of the Prouerbe vsed of three Cities in England.

You haue read in the first part of this Historie, how the Fayerie Knight the Sonne of Cælia, begot by the Red-rose Knight, was committed (by his Mother at her death) to the keeping of the Ladies of the Land: for then was there but few Men liuing, being a Countrey onely of Women: and now being of lusty age, and a Knight of renowned valoure, he betooke himselfe to trauell: the onely cause to finde his Father, or some of his kindred whom he had neuer seene.

Many were the Countries he passed: but more the dangers hee indured: all which for this time, wee omit: onely a little speake of three guifts giuen him by an Hermite, that had three exceeding Vertues: For comming to an Iland to seeke aduentures, it was his chance to saue a young beautifull Mayden from rauishing by a satyricall Wild-man: for he hauing tyed the golden locks of her Hayre to two knotty brambles, and being ready to take his venerall pleasure vpon her, the Fayerie Knight comming by, and seeing that dishonour and violence offered to so young a Virgin, with his Sword at one blow, paired away the Wild-mans head, and so went with the Mayden home to her Fathers house, which was an Hermitage some mile distant off: where being no sooner come, but the good old man, hauing a Head more white then Siluer, but a heart more heauier then Lead, by reason of the want

want of his daughter, so cruelly taken from him, began at her sight to be so cheered, that he had not the power (for ioy) to speake a good space, but at last, taking the Fayerie Knight by the hand, he led him to an inward roome, where hee banqueted him with such chære as his Hermitage affoorded; and after in lieu of his daughters reschew, hee gaue him thræ such Gifts, and of thræ such Vertues, as the like seldome had Knight. The first, was a Ring, which whosoeuer did weare, should neuer dye by treason. The second a Sword; that on what Gate soeuer it strucke, it would presently fly open. The third and last, a viáll of such Drinke that whosoeuer tasted, should sodainely forget all passed sorrowes.

Hauing receiued these thræ Gifts of the gad old Hermite, he departed, and trauelled without any aduenture till he came and found the blacke Knight asleepe vpon his fathers Graue: which when the Fayerie Knight had awaked, in countenance they were so alike, as Nature had made them both one, (for indeed they were Brothers by the Fathers side, the one true borne, the other a Bastard) yet at the first sight, such a secret affection grew betwixt them, that they plighted their faythes to each other, vowing neuer to part friendships. But when the Blacke Knight had reuealed his birth & parentage, his Fathers name, and place of birth, the Fayerie Knight resolued himselfe, that he had found a Brother, as well in nature as condition: But when hee heard the story of his Fathers life, and the manner of his death, with the murther of Anglitora his vnchast wife, hee could not chuse but shed teares, whereof plenty descended from his faire eyes: whereupon hée tooke occasion to speake as followeth.

Heauen rest thy swæt soule (my vnknowne Father,) and may the fruite of thee proue as famous in the World as thou hast been; but more fortunate in their Mariage choyse: As for my Stepmother, though her vnchast life haue made her infamous to all Womankinde, yet this in charitie I desire, that when shee comes to Plutoes Realme, that Proserpine may send her to the blessed fields of Elizium; in remembrance of whom, in this world, (if euer we arriue in that noble Countrey of England, where my Knightly Father was

borne,) wee will there erect her a ſtately Tombe: yet no Epitaph) ſhall ſhow her diſloyall life, nor the cauſe of her death: onely in Letters of beaten Gold, ſhall remaine ingrauen vpon her Tombe, the name of, Anglitora Daughter to Preſter Iohn, and Wife to the worthy Red-roſe Knight. Hereupon hee gaue his new-found Brother (the Blacke Knight) his Viall of Drinke which the Hermit had giuen him: who no ſooner had taſted, but all former greefes were forgotten: hee remembred not the death of his Father, nor the murther of his Mother, nor what ſorrow hee had ſuſtayned in the Wilderneſſe: but like a ioconde Knight, gyrt his Sword round about him, and ſtood on Thornes till hee was ſet forward to ſeeke Martiall aduentures. Hereupon theſe two Knights departed toward England, and performed many noble deeds of Chiualrie by the way; But amongſt all others, being in the Turkiſh Court (this is worthy to bee noted) for with one Bore of the eare, the Blacke Knight killed the Turkes Sonne ſtarke dead: for which cauſe, by treaſon were their liues conſpired, and the following night, had their Lodging entred by twelue of the Turkes Guard, with an intent to murther them: but by reaſon of the inchaunted Ring, in the which they put both their little fingers, the Guard of a ſodaine fell all faſt in a traunce: hereupon the two Knights departed the Turkiſh Court, But no ſooner were they out of the Citie, but a troupe of armed Knights purſued them, and followed them ſo neerely, that they were forced to enter a Caſtle that ſtood by the Sea ſide, wherein no creature had abyding: comming to the Gate, the Fayerie Knight with his Sword ſtrucke thereat, an it preſently opened: wherein being no ſooner entred, but the armed Knights of the Turkiſh nation cloſed them faſt in, and cauſed the Gates to bee walled vp with Free Stone, and ſo departed. Now were theſe two Knights in more danger of death, then euer they had beene in all their liues: and ſure they had ſtarued, had not good pollicie preſerued their liues: for the Caſtle walles were ſo high, that none durſt venture downe without great danger. As in greateſt extreamity, mans wit is the quickeſt for inuention: ſo the two Knights cut off all the Payre from

their

their heads which were very long) and therewithall made a long tuffed Line or Cord, with the which they slid from the top of the Wall to the Ground. But this mischaunce happened; as the Fayerie Knight glyded downe, the Coard broke, and his body tooke such a violent blow against the stonie Ground, that it stucke the breath quite out of his body, no life by the Blacke Knight could bee perceiued, but that his soule was for euer diuided. This of all misfortunes, was held the extreamest; therefore in great griefe hee breathed forth this lamentation.

Oh you partiall Fates (quoth hee) Oh you vniust Destinies: Why haue you reft two liues by wounding one? Now let the Sunne forbeare his wonted light. Let Heate and Coulde, let Drought and Moysture, let Earth and Ayre, let Fire and Water, be all mingled and confounded together: let that old confused Chaos returne againe, and heere let the World end. And now you Heauens this is my request, that my Soule may presently forsake this flesh: I haue no soule of mine owne, for it is the soule of the Fayerie Knight, for but one Soule is common to vs both: then how can I liue, hauing my Soule departed, which spightfull death hath now separated? Oh thou my Knightly brother, though the Fates deny to giue thée life, yet in spight of them Ile follow thée. You Heauens receiue this halfe soule of my true Friend and let not life and death part vs; with Eagles wings will I flye after him, and in Ioues celestiall Throane ioyne with him in friendship. We two in life were but one; one will, one heart, one minde, one Soule made vs one: one life kept vs both aliue, one being dead, drawes the other vnto death: therefore, as wee liued in loue, so will we dye in loue; and with one Graue wee may interre both our bodyes: How glorious and happy were my death, to dye with my beloued friend: Now doe I loath this life, in liuing alone without my deare Brother: whereupon drawing his Sword from his side, hée sayd.

Oh thou wofull Weapon, euen thou shalt be the meane, to ridde my soule from this prison of body. Oh faith vnfaigned; Oh hand of sacred friendship; I am resolued both with the force of Heart, Hand, and Armes, to giue my Heart deaths

deadly wound; for now my noble Fayerie Knight, this blood I offer vp vnto thy Soule. But being ready with his Sword to pierce his owne heart, hée saw a liuely blood spread in his friends face, and those eyes that were so dolefully closed vp, began now to looke abroad; and the countenance that was so pale and wan, receiued a freth complexion: whereupon the Blacke Knight stayed from his desperate resolution, and from a bloody tragedian, became the recouerer of his brothers life; who after a while, began to be perfect sencible: so binding his bruzed bones together, they went a Shipboard on a Shippe that lay at anchor at the next Port, making for England, so the next morning (the wind serued well) the Pilots hoysted sayle, merily floting on the waters.

Ten weekes had not passed toward the finishing of a yeere, before they ariued on the Chaulkie cliftes of England; vpon which they had no sooner set footing, but with their warme lippes they gently kissed the cold earth, This is the Land of promised glory (said the Fayerie Knight) to finde this Land I haue indured many miseries: to find this Land I haue passed many Countries, and in this Land, must I seale vp the last quittance of my life, here shal my bones rest, for I am lawfully descended from the loynes of an English Knight: peace bee in my ende, for all my dayes haue béene spent in much trouble.

In such like discourses left they the shore side, & trauayling further into the Land, they met with one of King Arthurs Knights, named Sir Launcelat Dulake, so old and lame that through his bruises in chiualry, hée seemed rather an impotent creature, then a Knight at Armes; yet at the sight of these two aduenturous Knights, his blood seemed to grow young: and hée that before, could not march a mile on foote for a Kingdome, now went as liuely as any of the two other Knights did. First came they to London, where for their fathers sake, they were (by the Gouernours) most gallantly entertained: the streets were hung round with Arras hangings, and Tapestrie workes: Pagiants were builded vp in euery street, the Conduits ran with Wine, and a solemne Holy-day was then proclaimed to be kept yearely vpon that day. To speake of Banquets prepared for them, the Tilts and Turnaments,

and

and such honourable graces, I thinke needlesse. In London in great content stayed they some twenty dayes: in which time came noble messengers from the Court to conduct them to the King that then raigned: for since the Blacke Knight and his mother departed the Land, hapned three changes, euery one maintaining the ancient honour of King Arthurs Knights of the Round Table, whereof these two in presence of all the Nobilitie, were in Knightly sort created.

After this, the King ordained a solemne Justing to be kept in his Court, & held in great honour for fortie dayes: to which Knightly sports, resorted the chiefest flowers of Chiualrie from all Countries, as Kings, Princes, Dukes, Marquesses, Earles, Lords, and Knights; and for chiefe Challenger and Champion for the Countrey, was the Fayerie Knight: who for his matchlesse manhood therein shown, had this title giuen him by a generall consent, to bee called, The Worlds Wonder.

After this, being desirous to see the Citie of Lincolne, where the Red-rose Knight was borne, hee in company of his Brother & true friend, the Blacke Knight, and old sir Lancelot Dulake, rod thither, at whose comming into the Citie, the great Bell (called Tom a Lincolne) was rung an houre, which as then was seldome shewne to any, excepting Kings, and renowned warriours, returning victoriously from bloody Battles. Here builded they a most sumptuous Minster, which to this day remaines in great magnificence and glory. Likewise here builded they a most stately Tombe in remembrance of their Parents: the like (as then) no place of England afforded.

They hauing left the noble feats of Chiualry, they liued a life zealous, and most pleasing to God: erecting many Almshouses for poore people, giuing thereto great Wealth and Treasure: And when nature ended their dayes, they were buried in the same Minster, both in one Tombe: which likewise was so richly set vp with Pillars of Gold, that aboue all other Cities, it grew the most famous: whereupon since that time, hath this old Prouerbe of three Cities grown common, which is vsed in these words: Lincolne was, London is, and Yorke shall be.

FINIS. R. I.